

U of M - Mercy presents Polish prisoner drama

Last year the University of Detroit-Mercy presented a play "Polish Joke" which the Polish Community found offensive and anti-Polish. There was a formal protest to the University in which I and Mr. Paul Odrobina, Mr. Jurek Rozalski, Msgr. Stanley Milewski took part. Despite their unwillingness to cancel the play the University agreed to work with Polonia to develop a more positive image of Poland and Polish Americans.

The Piast Institute took up the task to follow through on this matter. The first result of that effort will be presented at a Saturday matinee at 2:00 pm February 16, 2008 at the Marygrove Theater in the form of a play titled "I Am First A Human Being".

The play is based on the letters from a Gestapo Prison by Krystina Wituska, a courageous young Polish woman who was condemned for her involvement in the Polish Underground. The play was created from her letters by Irene Tomaszewski. The play is being produced by Yolanda

Fleischer who directed "Polish Joke" Tickets are free but reservations must be made by calling The Piast Institute at 313-664-0321.

It is very important that Polonia turn out to support this event to show the University that we are a strong and united community who will not accept being maligned and discriminated against but who will work cooperatively with those who are willing to present a true and positive image of Poland and Polish Americans. A poor showing will mean that Polonia does not have to be taken seriously by those who would denigrate or insult us since we have no power to mobilize ourselves in our own interest.

The play is being sponsored by all of the leading organizations of Polonia. Now it is up to the Polish people to step forward to show our strength and unity.

Thad Radzilowski, PhD
President-Piast Institute

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