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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 11, 2010
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THIS AIN'T YOUR MOTHER'S IBSEN (OR STRINDBERG!)

Eastern Michigan University Theatre heats up this winter with *Nora* and *Julie*, a steamy pair of adaptations by Ingmar Bergman based on two theatrical classics: Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and August Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. A mélange of seduction and manipulation where secrets are spilled and true natures revealed, *Nora/Julie* will share the Sponberg stage in an innovative evening of theatre directed by Terry Heck Seibert and Lee Stille on February 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 7 pm and February 14 at 3 pm. Sponberg is located within the Quirk Theatre building at the intersection of Best Hall and East Circle Drive on EMU's Ypsilanti campus.

In *Nora*, the title character desperately struggles to maintain life as she knows it while keeping potentially dangerous secrets from her husband and friends. Placed by director Terry Heck Seibert in 1950's Savannah, Georgia, *Nora* is a sizzling, psychological drama that centers on one woman's fight for identity while tangled in a marriage facing destruction. Director Lee Stille sets *Julie* in an English country manor on a languid mid-summer's eve, 1940. In an attempt to escape an upper-class existence cramped by social mores, Miss Julie enters into a scandalous relationship with one of the domestic servants in her father's household. What follows is a struggle of power destined for tragic consequences. *Nora* and *Julie* cut to the heart of their original works, focusing on the psychological and societal disputes that drive the title characters to their final acts of desperation. These productions feature adult themes and sexual references that may not be suitable for all audiences.

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While Ingmar Bergman is typically known for his work in the film industry, his brilliance also shines within his original plays and adaptations. In April of 1981 Bergman and his German company opened what was called “The Bergman Project” in Munich. The Bergman Project consisted of two adaptations –*A Doll’s House* became *Nora* and *Miss Julie* became *Julie* – as well as one original script called *Scenes from a Marriage*. With this series, Bergman aimed to reflect different perspectives of the relationship between men and women. *Nora* and *Julie* both pay particular attention to issues of gender and society by placing women in the central roles and facing them with a unique set of challenges that relate to their relationships and their role within society. As indicated by Bergman’s choice of titles, the adaptations pare down the original works and emphasize parallels between *Nora* and *Julie*.

Nora and *Julie* will be performed in the Sponberg Theatre February 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 at 7 p.m. and February 14 at 3 p.m. Ticket prices for the EMU Theatre production of *Nora/Julie* are \$15 Regular Admission, \$12 for students, \$9 for MAINSTAGE patrons. Tickets are available by phone at 734.487.2282 and in person at the Convocation Center, the Student Center ticket office or the Quirk Box Office. To purchase tickets online visit: www.emutix.com. For more information about EMU Theatre visit www.emich.edu/emutheatre, fan us on Facebook: Eastern Michigan University Theatre or follow us on Twitter: [emutheatre](https://twitter.com/emutheatre).