

Podcast Title: *Send in the Thespians* – All About MSU Department of Theatre's *Othello*

INTRO MUSIC

(theatrical jazz fades in — intermission bell sound effect plays.)

HOST (Lauren):

Welcome to *Send in the Thespians*, the podcast that spotlights theatre, community and Oz-some content — one short day at a time!

I'm your host, Lauren Wadie, and today we're revealing something Extra! Extra!.

The MSU Department of Theatre has just wrapped their powerful and contemporary production of *Othello* on November 16.

(Theatrical jazz music fades down)

SEGMENT 1 — Behind-the-Scenes of *Othello*

Lauren:

If you've ever seen a Department of Theatre production, you know it's a festival of emotions, a renaissance of artistry and of course — all that jazz.

(Background: faint backstage ambience — soft audience chatter)

This modern-day adaptation brought the world of Venice and Cyprus into a contemporary military setting, complete with multimedia effects, bold costume choices, and a set design that blended realism and abstract symbolism. The creative team worked for over a month to craft a

world where jealousy, manipulation, and power dynamics hit just as hard today as they did 400 years ago.

(Sound cue: faint rustle of costumes, low backstage laughter)

SEGMENT 2 — Interview with the Director

Lauren:

To learn more about how this production came to life, I spoke with **Ji Won Jeon**, who guided the cast through Shakespeare’s emotional battlefield.

Ji Won Jeon:

“Our goal was to honor Shakespeare’s text while showing audiences why *Othello* still matters. These students brought raw honesty to every rehearsal. Their commitment to truth-telling is what made the show resonate.”

Lauren:

You also shared how collaboration across design, performance, and movement departments shaped the production’s emotional arc.

Ji Won Jeon:

“Every design choice — from lighting to costumes — was crafted to reflect Iago’s psychological influence and Othello’s conflict between rationality and jealousy. We wanted the audience to feel the world closing in around Othello, just as he does.”

SEGMENT 3 — Student Perspective

Lauren:

To get a performer's perspective, I chatted with **Raleigh Belle Wine**, a senior BFA acting major who played Desdemona.

Raleigh Belle Wine (clip):

"This production pushed us in the best way. We explored themes of trust, identity, and loyalty in rehearsal, and it made every scene feel alive. Shakespeare isn't easy, but when it clicks — it's electric."

Lauren:

I asked Raleigh what her favorite part of the process was.

Raleigh Belle Wine (clip):

"Definitely the platform work and character exploration. We spent days unpacking relationships and intentions. And honestly? This show has pushed me in many ways that others haven't."

(Sound cue: footstep sounds)

SEGMENT 4 — Community Connection

Lauren:

The MSU Department of Theatre has been creating impactful performances for decades, including many Shakespeare works and this production of *Othello* continued that legacy. The show invited audiences to reflect on the darker sides of human nature — manipulation, insecurity, and resilience — while celebrating student artistry at its highest level.

(Soft instrumental music builds)

With house packed nights and a powerful audience response, *Othello* brought Spartans together for a shared experience filled with intensity, empathy, and the magic of live theatre.

So the next time you see a poster for an MSU Theatre production, grab a seat — because every performance holds a bit of Spartan spirit and storytelling excellence.

OUTRO (Closing)

Lauren:

Thanks for tuning in to *Send in the Thespians*, where every story is staged with pride, prejudice, and just the right amount of dramatic flair.

I'm **Lauren Wadie** — and remember: all the world's a stage, Spartans!

(Outro music fades up, same jingle as intro.)

Total Estimated Time: ~5:10 minutes