

How To Discover
the "Next" Apple
or Coca-Cola

View This Video
Before You Buy
Penny Stocks Online
Look...

The
\$6 Trillion
Opportunity

Learn Why This
Penny Stock Could
Go Stratospheric
Get details...



Try New & Exciting
Products. Absolutely
No Cost to You!
Explore now...

A Wolf in the Parlor

The charlatan Tartuffe sharpens his teeth on plush surroundings at the Lee Center for the Arts.

Richard Morin

published: May 03, 2006

Sonya Josephs Photography



A stage design that will floor you.

Details:

TARTUFFE Lee Center for the Arts, Seattle University, 901 12th Ave., 206-296-5360, www.seattleu.edu. \$10. Various times. Wed.–Sun., through May 7.

The first thing you'll notice about Seattle University's production of *Tartuffe*, which ends its run this week at the school's lovely new Lee Center for the Arts, is the stunningly lavish set. In a space nearly the dimensions of a basketball court, designer Carol Wolfe Clay has reproduced a 17th-century drawing room in rich burgundies and deep mahoganies. It's breathtaking. If expenses were spared, it doesn't show—the sparkling chandeliers, plush settees, ornate, dark-wood writing desks, and velvet draperies invite the eye to wander and marvel at the intricate detail and elaborate charm of Clay's handiwork. It's a perfect setting, a kind of bourgeois minefield meant to induce a stupor of complacent languor.

Fortunately, such bountiful surroundings are put to very good use. Sharply directed by Ki Gottberg—whose *A Compendium of Nastiness* was the surprise hit of the year—this is an energetic and fast-paced satire that strikes a proper balance between the play's light and dark elements. Molière's story is as simple as its observations are complex: A spiritual charlatan, the wily Tartuffe (Erik Maahs), has insinuated

himself into the good graces of the gullible Orgon (Patrick Bonck), paterfamilias of an extremely wealthy extended family. The play unwinds as a long, hilariously tortuous progress toward disillusionment, as family and friends attempt to reveal to Orgon the truth of Tartuffe's intentions.

The large cast is composed mostly of Seattle U students, and everyone turns in a spirited performance. Standouts include Meg Cowan as Elmire, Orgon's second wife; Andrew Perez as son Damis; and Bonck, whose pretentious baritone and haughty mannerisms capture the lofty arrogance of the wealthy dupe. And Maahs, a 15-year veteran of the Seattle theater scene, is appropriately devilish and greedy as the duplicitously pious Tartuffe.

stage@seattleweekly.com



Attention Stock Investors

How to Discover the "Next" Apple While It's Still a...



A \$6 Trillion Opportunity

Ride This Stock as It Heads for a Multibillion-Dollar Valuation



Get Tons of FREE Samples

Try New & Exciting Products. Absolutely No Cost to You!