

WHAT IS YOUR

Character in the Ho

COLLEGE STAFF WRITER

A Penn State musical theatre alumna will make her return to Happy Valley next week in Monty Python's "SPAMALOT."

The national touring show will be performed in Eisenhower Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Tickets are \$42 and \$36 for University Park students, \$57 and \$51 for adults and \$52 and \$46 for those ages 18 and under.

The show's storyline is written by Eric Idle with music and lyrics by Idle and John Du Prez. The musical received the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2005 and is based on the cult-classic film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

"SPAMALOT" puts a whimsical spin on the traditional lore of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table searching for the Holy Grail. As with the film, the musical includes flying cows, killer rabbits and taunting Frenchmen, complete with show-stopping musical numbers.

The Lady of the Lake, one of the musical's central characters, is played by Caroline Bowman, Class of 2010. The character is only briefly mentioned in the male-dominated movie but doesn't actually make an appearance.

Idle wrote the character of the Lady of the Lake into the musical, because it

character has a unique quality that helps Arthur on his quest, but "she ends up being a real person, who develops romantic feelings for Arthur," Bowman said.

She said her character sings just about every genre of music in the show, so she's been working on her vocal stamina in preparation for the performance. She also makes sure she works out regularly and keeps herself healthy so she can perform to the best of her ability for the next nine months on the tour, she said.

"It's crazy, but wonderful," she said. "This is my first national tour, and our schedule is pretty grueling because we're doing a lot of one-night shows, but it's exciting."

Bowman has worked for the theater company performing "SPAMALOT" in the past. In January and February 2010, she missed a few weeks of classes to act in "Fame" and played Rizzo in "Grease" during the summer.

During her time at Penn State she performed for the School of Theatre as Joesphine and Monica in "Romance, Romance" and Adele in "A Man of No Importance." She also spent a month playing the part of Patti in the Pennsylvania Center Stage's production of "Smokey Joe's Café."

Besides being employed for the next year, Bowman's favorite thing about the show is how much fun she has performing in it.

"I always have fun in the shows I do,

your back, god forbid so wrong."

John Mark Rafacz, editor for Eisenhower Auditorium Center for Performing Arts, "really looking forward" to the show.

CPA sought "SPAMALOT" because it's a "very funny show, but much a traditional musical because it won a Tony Award," he said.

"Monty Python has a broad appeal," he said. "It already has a large audience, so it was a logical choice."

So far, "SPAMALOT" is the most popular event at Eisenhower Auditorium this season, but tickets are still available, Rafacz said.

The "baby boomer" generation is the key audience, he added. Penn State students are also buying tickets to the show.

"We're pleasantly surprised by the amount of college students who are familiar with Monty Python. Their parents introduced them to it or they discovered it on their own," Rafacz said.

Luke Abercrombie said he likes Monty Python because "it shows us that we don't have to be a little kid all the time."

Abercrombie (junior in wildlife and fisheries science) serves as co-presi-



"O Knights of NI,
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a shrubbery

The Castle
"Anthrax?"