

ARTS



Photo by Sean Poston

Carlos Gomez, playing the role of Jeff, and Jeff's best friend Sarah, played by Cindy Veldhuis, explore the ups and downs of college life in the original University play "Leap of Faith."

'Leap of Faith' explores college life

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Entertainment Reporter

The trials and tribulations of college life are chronicled in an original University play, "Leap of Faith."

Delving into the complexities of the average college student's life, the play revolves around four fictional University students and the issues they face on campus and in life.

Family, relationships, school and other common problems students normally face in this stressful transitional period toward an established career and stable existence are explored.

"There has not been a play done on college students on campus, and so we wanted to put up something that students can actually identify closely with," said Lorilyn Jirges, theater arts graduate student and the play's co-writer.

Grant McKernie, a professor in the theater arts department, and Theresa Mason, a theater arts graduate student, are the play's other co-writers.

To ensure an authentic focus, the writers spent time talking with students and University counselors in order to piece together a profile of the college student and the matters that concern them.

"We want our audience to be able to recognize themselves or somebody they know in the play's characters," said Jirges. "We want them to relate to it."

The four characters are: Jeff, an acting student; his best friend, Sarah; his room-mate with caustic wit, Bart; and Bart's girlfriend, Sam.

"Leap of Faith" will run from Nov. 29 through Dec 1. Performances start at 8 p.m. at the Arena Theatre. Tickets cost \$4 for the general public and \$3 for students and are available at the Robinson Theatre box office.

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