

Election: Timely theme for young actors

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

For its annual fall play, Seaside High School's drama program will be undertaking a critically relevant and timely satire that explores one of America's most revered political processes, "The Election."

Director Lenore Morrisson said she chose "The Election," written by Dan Zolidis, because of its comedic take on the contemporary political scene and relevance to the upcoming 2016 presidential election, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 8.

"All elections are sort of the same, right?" Morrisson said. "They say they're going to run a clean campaign, and pretty soon someone's



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"The Bold, The Young and The Murdered," the 2015 fall play, featured the theatrical talents of numerous Seaside High School students. Auditions for this year's fall play, "The Election," will be held in mid-September.

running an ad, saying, 'he's a puppy killer.' It's just kind of ridiculous."

At the start of "The Election," a disgraced student body president resigns. Stu-

dent Mark Davenport, looking to beef up his resume for college applications, decides to run for president in a special election. He expects an easy victory against his nerdy

opponent, Christy Martin, whose platform is to eliminate football, according to a summary on the Playscripts website. However, when Christy gets backed by a Super PAC with an unlimited budget, Mark realizes the race is on. To resist defeat, he must accept "the services of a slick professional campaign manager with questionable ethics and a million-dollar Super PAC of his own," the summary states.

Several of the play's themes are applicable to the real world of politics at every level of government.

Reading through the script, Morrisson said she found the play to be fast-moving and "just ridiculous."

"I was chuckling," she

said, adding the plot "gets as crazy" as the current presidential race between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump.

She also hopes the play will compel students to become more aware of the campaign and election processes and the importance of being critically thinking and engaged members of the public who take interest in current affairs.

"I think the kids are going to have fun with it," she said.

The play features five main characters and numerous incidental characters, allowing Morrisson flexibility with her casting decisions. She can use a big ensemble if many students show up to

auditions or cast each actor for multiple smaller parts.

"Our unknown this year is how many young men we're going to have in our fall play, because we graduated a lot of our kids," she said. "The good thing about this play is we only have to have two males, the rest we can change the gender."

Because multiple reliable theater participants were graduating seniors last year, "the theater program is totally rebuilding this year," Morrisson said. One option to address the loss of several of the school's staple male actors was to choose a play containing all female characters, but Morrisson worried about "discouraging the guys from going out" for roles.



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