

## NEWS RELEASE

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### University of Saint Mary Theatre Department Presents *The Nutcracker* Dec. 8 - 9

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—In typical Holiday fashion, the University of Saint Mary Theatre Department will bring to life a Holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, inside Xavier Theatre December 8 - 9.

The University of Saint Mary presentation of *The Nutcracker* is an all ages show starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8. Additional performances will also be held at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and students with a valid I.D., and \$3 each for groups of 25 or more. Call 913-758-6152 for advance tickets. USM's Xavier Theatre is located inside Xavier Hall, located on the main campus, 4100 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Leavenworth.

*The Nutcracker* was written by Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky originally as a ballet 1891 and choreographed by Lev Ivanov. The production was adapted into a screen-play by June Walker Rodgers. The USM production will be the adapted screen-play version.

*The Nutcracker* tells the story of a young girl named Clara and her magical Christmas adventure. Clara's godfather gives her a wooden nutcracker in the form of a soldier. The toy soldier mysteriously comes to life at the stroke of midnight and she follows him on his quest to find the mouse king who has stolen his crown. Original music by Tchaikovsky enhances this Christmas classic.

Van Ibsen, associate professor of drama, will direct the production. "This will definitely be a visual treat for all who attend," Ibsen said. "Without a doubt, this will be one of the more exciting productions for our actors," he continued. "They have a lot of movement throughout the show and the actors run all the technical devices throughout the show as well."

The production is much more complicated than the average play, according to Ibsen. In fact, massive props and sets move constantly and almost all the theatre's fly lines (more than 20) are being used to create the realistic motion the production requires. The entire cast and crew hope all the time and effort spent perfecting the show will translate into a visual stage success.

"We're excited about the show and we think it will be great," Ibsen said.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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