

## USM Announces 2007-2008 Theatre Season

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Original works, family favorites, and classic tales are set to headline the 2007- 08 Theatre Season at the University of Saint Mary. With a variety of works, the 2007 season just might be USM's most diverse season ever. Highlighting the season are two productions, a USM original chronicling the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, founders of USM, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The original production still yet to be named was written and produced by the USM Chair of the Fine Arts – Theatre Department, Van Ibsen. Ibsen wrote the play in six weeks while on sabbatical during the last school year. He adapted the play from the book, “Come North” by Sr. Juila Gilmore, SCL, and many sisters.

“It’s really an adaptation of the Sisters’ words and I put in all of the bridge work. The play is written for everybody so that the audience can come to know who the sisters are,” said Ibsen.

The play begins in 1858 and goes to present day. It recounts many of the hardships the “original” Sisters of Charity had to battle. Included in the story is Mother Xavier Ross’ battle to convert to Catholicism, the Sister’s struggle with bad debt, and their eventual triumphs in the Leavenworth. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m on Oct. 4, 5, and 6 in Xavier Theatre.

Highlighted as USM’s winter show, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs will come to life on the Xavier Theatre stage. In USM tradition, the winter show will be one for the whole family to enjoy. The story of Snow White is based on the German fairy tale, Snow White by the Brothers Grimm. It was later turned into the first full length animated film produced by Walt Disney. This classic story begins with the raven haired princess and her jealous wicked step-mother’s attempt to have her murdered. Snow White manages to escape and is given shelter and raised by seven very lovable dwarfs living deep in the forest. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m on Dec. 7 and 8 in Xavier Theatre.

The Laramie Project, by Moises Kaufman, will be this year’s spring show. It is a compilation of more than 200 interviews about the reaction to the 1998 hate crime/murder of college student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyo. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m on Feb. 28, 29, and March 1 in Xavier Theatre. This show is intended for adult audiences, adult supervision is advised.

The Threepenny Opera rounds out the USM season. Die Dreigroschenoper, the original title, later translated to The Threepenny Opera, is not really an opera at all – it’s more of satirical musical theatre at its best. The play was adapted in the early 1920s by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill from John Gay’s 1728 play, The Beggar’s Opera. Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m on April 17, 18, and 19 in Xavier Theatre.

For all shows, tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and students with a valid I.D, \$3 each for groups of 25 or more, and \$25 for season tickets. Call (913)758-6152 for

advance tickets. USM's Xavier Theater is located inside Xavier Hall, located on the main campus, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan.

For more information on any or all of this year's theatre season please call (913)758-6152.

Story by Shanell Nieves, USM Marketing Intern