



News Release

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WESTERN PRESENTS SARTRE'S "NO EXIT"

St. Joseph, Mo. —Aug. 22, 2006—"No Exit," a play translated by Peter Bowles from the original by Jean Paul Sartre, opens Sept. 11 at the Black Box Theatre in Thompson E. Potter Hall at Missouri Western State University. The play runs through Sept. 17. Shows are at 8 p.m. Sept. 11-16, and 2 p.m. on Sept. 17. Ticket prices are \$8 for general admission, \$4 for senior citizens and Western students, faculty and staff.

The play is directed by student Aaron Westlake of St. Joseph, the first student to direct a show in the regular performance season. He has directed two productions in the off-season and assisted Jeremy Warner, instructor of theatre, in the regular season production of "Bodies, Rest and Motion."

"The experience was the best one I've had theatrically and it solidified for me that I really wanted to pursue directing," Westlake said. "I knew that the department was looking for shows to produce for the next season, so I came up with a detailed proposal and submitted it."

Jean Paul Sartre's "No Exit" was first performed at the Vieux-Colombier in May 1944, just before the liberation of Paris. Three characters, a man and two women, find themselves in hell, which for them is a room with nothing but each other.

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Credeau, played by Anothony Bossler of St. Joseph, finds himself in a single room with Inez, played by Jennifer George of St. Joseph and Estelle played by Bekka James, Humboldt, Neb. His sin had been cowardice in life, and in hell he tries to use the two women as mirrors in which he will see a complacent and reassuring picture of himself. The women find themselves in the same self-discovery struggle, not liking what they see. Soon they find they are in a self-styled hell where no torture is necessary – they have each other for that. Joining the three in Hell is the only inhabitant we see, the bellboy, played by Christian Burnett of St. Joseph.

“I happened to pick up the play at a used bookstore while I was assistant directing ‘Bodies, Rest and Motion’ last year,” said Westlake. “When I read it I was amazed on many levels. One, it was one of the first scripts that I immediately loved upon the first reading. I wasn’t exactly sure why at that point, but I knew I had to read it again. I did, and I just had a gut reaction that this could have the potential to make an amazing piece of theater.”

For more information, call 816-271-4443.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.