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Office of University
Communications

September 24, 2019

Original Play Commissioned by GWU to Help with Campus Efforts to Raise Awareness

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Department of Theatre Arts at Gardner-Webb University is helping to raise awareness about human trafficking—specifically in the United States—with its fall production of “Everybody’s Moving.” Premiering Oct. 3-6, the original play was commissioned by GWU last year.

“The play came about because Gardner-Webb has been working hard to increase awareness of human trafficking, and we wanted to do a play that tackled the issue in some way,” noted Dr. Chris Nelson, chair of the Department of Theatre Arts. “I asked my friend, playwright John Patrick Bray, if I could commission him to write a play about that subject for us to do here at Gardner-Webb. He and his associate Jake Hunsbusher wrote ‘Everybody’s Moving,’ which is the result of this collaboration.”

The playwrights took an unconventional look at a very tough subject, Nelson said. “They wanted to focus less on the aspects of the trade itself, and more on the ubiquity of it, and how many people can be complicit in the spread of human trafficking in this country and internationally. This play, I think, sheds light on that.”



The cast includes GWU students: Marshall Townsend, Chris Adams, Markus Byrd, Joe Bragdon, Nick Howell, Olivia Ottinger, Sarah Bragdon, Cheyenne McCall, Ely Thompson, and Betsy Shevick.

The play runs Oct. 3-5 at 7:30 each evening and Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. in Dover Theater. Tickets for the general public are \$10 and are available by calling the box office at 704-406-4656 or by emailing ashauf@gardner-webb.edu. Viewer discretion is advised for this very serious topic.

[Learn more about the Department of Theatre Arts.](#)

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4264 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

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