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January 15, 2013

Unique Event to Serve as Special Fundraiser

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University Theatre Department, a part of the School of Performing and Visual Arts, is thrilled to be bring back the 24-Hour Play Festival on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. in the Millennium Playhouse, located in the Communication Studies Hall. The event puts students to the test, as they are challenged to cast, write, rehearse, and perform a number of short plays in a single 24-hour period. The event is open to the public with a \$3 per person ticket cost.

Previously, the festival was produced each semester and received high acclaim from students and faculty alike. It returns now under the direction of Sue Fair, GWU instructor of theatre and technical director.

“The students were familiar with the 24-Hour Festival,” Fair said. “They enjoyed it and wanted it back. We decided it could be used as a fundraiser to support a March trip to the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference in Louisville, Ky.”

Much work is involved as teams get together for the first time on Jan. 25. The process begins with creating an idea for a play and writing a script. Then acting roles are handed out. Groups must also decide design, and produce stage props and sets for the production. All aspects of the production happen within a 24-hour period. This initiative of the theater program is a way new short plays can be developed, while training undergraduates in the craft of play production.

“The students’ excitement is what excites me. An experience like this can really bring out their best skills, especially for the writer, with such short preparation time,” added Fair.

For more information about this event and the Theatre Department, contact Justin Humphries at 704-406-4656.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University’s purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).