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UNIVERSITY

Be The Difference.

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DEAF PLAYWRIGHT GAINING NATIONAL ATTENTION

Marquette Students Invited to Perform in Prestigious Theater Competition

MILWAUKEE – Garrett Zuercher wrote “Quid Pro Quo” as part of his senior thesis while a student at Marquette University. The play was performed by fellow students under Zuercher’s direction and it received excellent reviews, surpassing the playwright’s expectations and gaining praise in the theatre community. Now, the student production is getting national attention as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). What’s more compelling is that the playwright has never actually *heard* any of the lines spoken in his play; Zuercher is deaf.

“Quid Pro Quo” chronicles the relationship between two college students, Lucas and Lindsey, and is a character study of being deaf in a hearing world. The actors on stage use only sign language as two other actors speak the lines off-stage.

“I wanted to challenge myself by doing a drama since I had neither written nor directed one before,” Zuercher said. “I wanted to combine my training in theatre with my background as a deaf man.”

Zuercher, who graduated last May, has been an actor, writer, and director in other shows at Marquette and in Melbourne, Australia.

“He is an amazing young man,” said Phylis Ravel, Director of the Marquette Performing Arts Department. “He has a wonderful command of language, more so than many who can actually hear the beauty of dialogue.”

MORE

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university dedicated to serving God by serving our students and contributing to the advancement of knowledge. Through our mission of Faith, Excellence, Leadership and Service we strive to graduate students who are not only better educated, but better people. We provide them with the necessary training to actively “Be the Difference” in our world.

“I am beyond thrilled to have this chance,” Zuercher said. “Were it not for the boundless determination and talents of this cast, this show would not have come this far.”

The cast of “Quid Pro Quo” is a quartet of Marquette students:

Colleen Foy (Lindsey), a senior from Waukesha, WI

Michael Miro (Lucas), a junior from Evanston, IL

Joseph Fernandez (Voice of Lucas), a sophomore from Tampa, FL

Anne Yatco (Voice of Lindsey), a sophomore from Morris, IL

“Quid Pro Quo” was evaluated by a judge from KCACTF in an October performance at Marquette and was selected to advance to the Great Lakes Region festival in the “new student-written play” category. Ten institutions and productions have been invited to perform out of 150 regionally (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio) at “Festival XXXVI,” January 13 – 18, 2004. **The Marquette cast will perform “Quid Pro Quo” at Illinois State University on January 16 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on the ISU campus.** If selected to continue, “Quid Pro Quo” could go on to be performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. later this spring.

About the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

KCACTF aims to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants, and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers, and critics at both the regional and national level.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. For more information, visit <http://www.marquette.edu/theater/ACTF/>

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