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### **90th annual Gaieties to feature live on-stage band, new set**

#### **[Jennifer Kong](#)**

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Cal-bashing, nudity and sick humor — it must be Gaieties time again. Celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, the student-run production organized by Ram's Head Theatrical Society is an annual, humorous original play performed the week of Big Game that promotes school spirit while ridiculing UC-Berkeley.

“Gaieties is a way for people to get away from the busy days of work and rally together as a school and remember why Stanford is such an amazing place to be at,” said junior Jessica Kaltman, the show's producer.

The theme for this year's Gaieties is “Planet of the Weenies,” which spoofs the summer blockbuster “Planet of the Apes.” According to senior Erikka Innes, co-director of the production, the plot line usually revolves around a failed attempt by Cal students to ruin Stanford.

The shows usually draw large numbers of people — this year, about 3,800 will attend, according to Innes' estimate. The performance style will be very different this year, however: a rock-and-roll band was hired to play live on-stage to music composed by juniors Adrian Perry and Drew Baglino.

Sophomore Lindsey Wittenberg, the show's stage manager, said a new set and the live rock music will further the “modern and edgy feel” of this year's show.

In addition, Kaltman said there will be a special appearance by one of “the best dance groups on campus” during the show.

“I hope people walk away feeling like the Gaieties tradition has been changed a little, has become a little more fun and contemporary,” Wittenberg said.

Throughout its long tradition at Stanford, Gaieties has been known to be a very rowdy event.

“I like Gaieties' spirit of fun and silliness,” Wittenberg said. “The show is able to poke fun at Stanford itself but still raises an incredible amount of school pride, even through its debauchery and jokes.”

Many students said they are eagerly awaiting the traditional nudity scene featured in the show.

“I look forward to the annual revelation of female flesh,” junior David Juan admitted.

Students have invested many months of hard work into the production. According to Innes, 29 actors were selected. Rehearsals began in early October, and participants have been intensively rehearsing five days a week since then.

For many Gaieties participants, the experience of creating such a production has been very rewarding.

Kaltman, who started her work as producer of Gaieties in February, said she has met many “friends that will last a lifetime.”

Innes said that although participating in Gaieties has been very rewarding, it has also been quite time-consuming.

“I don’t sleep very often,” she said. “When I do sleep, I dream about directing Gaieties.”

Gaieties performances will begin tonight, tomorrow and Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for students and \$15 for the general public. This year there will be a special faculty night tonight, during which faculty can purchase tickets for \$9.



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