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Gaieties Goes Down Tonight

[Barrett W. Sheridan](#)

 November 19th, 2003 by Barrett W. Sheridan

gaieties

“It’s all about how Cal sucks,” says Alexis “Texas” Boozer, director of this year’s Gaieties performance. But at last night’s final dress rehearsal, there was more than enough sucking to go around. The first scene after intermission features the character of Leland Stanford Jr., along with his “boy toy” and a quartet of chip ‘n’ dale dancers, getting a groove on.

“I’m alive,” shouts Stanford, after an interpretative dance number between penicillin and typhoid fever. The sucking followed, and since this is a family newspaper, details will be left to your imagination.

This year’s Gaieties, “G3: Rise of the Weenies,” opens tonight at Memorial Auditorium. Some of the masterminds behind the show sat down last night to explain concepts of the performance.

“The word ‘extravaganza’ has to go in there,” says Lauren Kramer, president of the Ram’s Head Theatrical Society, which puts on the show. To make sure that her point is taken, she adds that “Gaieties is a musical extravaganza pep rally before the Big Game.”

“We should use ‘fun-fest,’” adds Nick Allen, an additional director, throwing in another adjective to try to convey the full sense of “G3.”

Boozer, however, was unsure about that description.

“I don’t know,” she says, “that sounds very ‘kiddie-fair’ to me.” She thinks a moment. “It’s fun. We’ve got a lot of raunchy stuff in the show. Lots of nudity. Bad language.”

A tradition for more than 100 years, Gaieties has become a campus-wide event, with even the Senior Class abstaining from their traditional Pub Night in favor of a Gaieties pre-party. The wet pre-party will take place before Thursday’s show, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the courtyard next to Memorial Auditorium.

This year, students can get their fill of raunchy stuff, nudity, bad language and phallusosity in performances tonight, Thursday and Friday. The Friday show has already sold-out, but tickets are still available for the other nights. To boost attendance, tonight’s show will cost only \$7, down from the typical \$9. Alcohol actually has been an issue at the show in the past, although not in any way that would attract the attention of a dry administration.

“The show was really, really excellent last year but a lot of people couldn’t sit through it,” Boozer says,

commenting on last year's three-hour runtime. "Mainly on senior night, because a lot of people come drunk."

This year, the production crew curtailed the running time in order to keep those drunkards in their seats.

"We've cut it down to 60, 70 percent of [last year's] time," Allen says.

In addition to a shorter length, attendees will be treated to guest appearances from University President John Hennessy, Dean of Admissions Robin Mamlet and Dean of Freshmen and Transfer Students Lythcott-Haines, all playing themselves.

"They sort of rev up the crowd," Boozer says. "Hennessy gets to shoot a gun. We gave him a Nerf gun with four Nerf balls in it and I was like, 'You know, just crank it and shoot it,' thinking he'd do it once. He shot our cast member with all four. He just kept going. It was great."

After getting a sneak peak of one post-intermission scene, this reporter can confirm that there is, indeed, plenty of raunchy humor in "G3," including an abundance of anal and oral sex jokes. And there is a barb or two left to attack the newly crafted restrictions of alcohol in freshmen dorms, because, as one stage actors asks: "What kind of an out-of-touch administration would ever think that banning alcohol in freshman dorms would solve problems on campus?"



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Gaieties satire rooted in truth

[Editorial Board](#)

 November 24th, 2003 by Editorial Board

The annual Gaieties musical is an event that helps rally Stanford spirit before Big Game. Typically, the century-old show includes a group of actors playing Cal students who want destroy Stanford.

As in past performances, humor about the rivalry was still at the heart of this year's Gaieties production, which ended its run on Friday night. But the musical also included social commentary on recent changes in campus life — including the Alcohol Policy, bicycle tickets and the “Serial Groper.”

Many University officials attended the production. Others, such as University President John Hennessy, made it onto stage with cameo performances and delivered a series of crowd-pleasing jokes.

Parody only succeeds if it is founded on truth. And judging from audience cheers at several Gaieties jokes — including one involving Saddam Hussein's reign of oppression and the Alcohol Policy — we believe that Gaieties has provided a valuable commentary on some drastic changes in student life this year. We hope the administration takes the commentary as a learning experience and seriously works with students to remedy the aspects of student life that fall short of expectations.



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Gaieties: As if life at Stanford weren't a satire already

[Chuck Armstrong](#)

 November 26th, 2003 by Chuck Armstrong

Tuesday night, I was invited to a special advance showing of Gaieties. Those in attendance were all dressed up in the height of fashion and were clearly among the finest and best bred of the Stanford theatregoing community. Obviously, everyone at the preview was invited for a reason.

The stakes were high at Memorial Auditorium that night, as some major changes have taken place to this year's script, making it one of the most historically progressive Gaieties in recent years. For example, completely removed from the script this year is the lovable character of Buddy, the talking bong.

Also, the writers have boldly decided to set the show three days AFTER Big Game. Overall, I'd say this choice makes for an interesting series of plot digressions, though it is slightly confusing at times, with constant references to nations that don't currently exist, and such things as hovercraft travel and robot stewardesses.

The script was not the only progressive aspect of the show; the actors themselves also took quite a few artistic risks. For example, early in the first act (upon completion of a musical number) the protagonist, (played by Chris Ayer) actually breaks the "fourth wall" and directly interacts with the audience, resulting in utter hilarity.

Overall, if I were to summarize this year's Gaieties in one word, it would have to be: very-well-put-together-and-shorter-than-last-year's. So get out there and go see the newest incarnation of an age-old Stanford tradition.



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