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New and improved Gaieties kicks off

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You may have seen the signs around campus, begging the question that has been on every Stanford student's mind since Gaieties began advertising — WHO KILLED DEAN JULIE?

Rest assured, the cast and crew of this year's Gaieties is willing to hold the campus in suspense so that everyone will have a great time figuring out who murdered our beloved dean of freshmen and transfer students.

This year's director, junior Mike McCunniff-Reid, is very excited about the final product.

"It has been a lot of fun to work on the show," he said. "The cast is amazing, the tech crew has gone all out and it's going to be amazing."

But how is Gaieties "new and improved" this year?

"What we did is look at the things people liked about Gaieties, and also what they weren't that happy about," McCunniff-Reid said. "The three things we came up with were length, plot and sound quality."

He elaborated on how each of these issues is being corrected this year.

"Gaieties is a fun time, a crazy show, a really great event — but this year it has a really coherent plot," he said.

Also improved is the sound quality of the performance, something that many past audiences believe has taken away from previous shows. This year, the crew brought in special speakers just for Gaieties.

According to McCunniff-Reid, the music is also phenomenal, with more instrumental music that adds a new dimension to the show.

Another issue many people have had with Gaieties in the past is that it tends to run a tad too long, leaving the audience squirming in their seats by the end. This year, however, Gaieties promises to last less than two hours, including intermission, and organizers hope to attract those who may not want to dedicate the entire night before Big Game to the show itself.

Another great feature of this year's Thursday night show is that Senior Pub Night will start at 6:30 p.m. and lead into Gaieties. Beer and wine will be served to seniors and the over-21 hoping to start the night out in traditional Pub Night style.

Sophomore Clea Alsip, one of the leads in the show, said of this year's cast, "There is so much Gaieties love! We all get along so well and are a really tight unit, which makes doing the show that much more amazing."

Alsip also commented on the production's leadership.

"The staff has also been absolutely phenomenal this year," she said. "They really have worked hard and have been working longer than we have. They started putting all this together last spring."

Of course, everyone must be wondering what the REAL star of the show thinks of all the publicity.

"The Gaieties producer was kind enough to ask my permission," said Dean of Freshmen and Transfer Students Julie Lythcott-Haims, of her starring role as murdered "Dean Julie."

"However," she continued, "it is a bit disconcerting to see rumors of your death publicized all over campus."

Students should also know that even though Gaieties has been largely overhauled this year, it will still be the same pre-Big Game show that Stanford students all know and love.

Senior Nicole Schuetz, another Gaieties' director, explained the main reason people should be excited to see the show.

"Beyond all the advertizing and the new features, it's a celebration of Stanford," she said. "Gaieties is really pure fun, and anyone who takes it too seriously is missing the point. The fun part is getting everyone revved up for the hallowed tradition of Big Game and beating Cal."

Watch out for this year's traditional spectacle. Tickets are already sold out for Friday, but Wednesday and Thursday shows have tickets still available, which will be on sale in White Plaza, online at www.killjulie.com or at the door.

In the words of McCunniff-Reid: "Everything that's great is even better, and everything that you might not have liked is gone!"



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