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## Get 'Wild' during Admit Weekend (without the booze)

### [Heather Buckelew](#)

 April 20th, 2007 by Heather Buckelew

By HEATHER BUCKELEW  
INTERMISSION PARTIER

There was a lot of talk surrounding “Wild Party” this week — what, with posters that feature nudity and descriptions that emphasize the sexual nature of the musical. But if you are looking for Gaieties-style raunch, you will be severely disappointed by this show, which is ultimately extremely classy.

The generally bubbly atmosphere of this spring musical from Rams Head is significantly enhanced by its incredible set. If nothing else motivates you to go to Memorial Auditorium to check out it, I suggest you go for the backdrops which are quite aesthetically pleasing. The costume work and score of the musical also are beautifully done.

Moreover, the structure of the musical itself is intriguing since it is lighter in the first half, as the audience is introduced to the characters and their world. The second half is the complete opposite, as viewers are then thrown into a far darker situation.

The opening of the play is fairly light, as the audience is slowly introduced to the relationship of the “sexually ambitious” Queenie (Lauren Hayes '08) and the “rough” Burrs (Charlton Gholson '08). This relationship quickly takes a turn for the worse when Burrs and Queenie become bored with the status quo.

In this context, Burrs quickly became my favorite character because he is given ample dimensionality and well-played. Despite coming across as a bit of a bastard, Gholson's portrayal of Burrs is done well enough to ensure that both Queenie and him remain morally questionable, as opposed to ensuring that the audience would side with Queenie in this tale of love and betrayal.

The musical includes some vulgar material, including scenes of partial nudity and drug usage. The audience also meets some shady figures. Kate (Clea Alsip '08) is a sleazy woman who plays Queenie's foil and spends most of the play trying to seduce Burrs. This is a role that she pulls off remarkably well, despite some of the drug scenes that were slightly off (for a well-played coke head, I suggest Mia in “Pulp Fiction” — Kate does not manage to convey this well).

My other favorite character actually has very little to do with the plot of the play, but is so entertaining it doesn't really matter. Madeleine True (Olivia Harewood '09) plays a lesbian who looks for love, well, everywhere. Her vocals are amazing and she provides a dose of entertainment to the otherwise slower paced first half of the play.

As with Madeleine True, the dancer, Jackie (Wade Ray '08), seems to be inconsequential in the play, but

his lone dance scene is beautifully done, however confusing a viewer might find it. The other main character, Black, (Willi Farrales '08), while interesting, never moves beyond the one-dimensional status of Queenie's knight in shining armor.

His development could have been stronger, especially since his role requires that he act within the main foursome of the otherwise very strong characters, Kate, Burrs and Queenie.

Despite some minor glitches, The Wild Party is an excellent and entertaining show, that still manages to keep it classy. It is playing on tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium and tickets are \$9 for students, \$15 for faculty/staff and \$18 general admission.



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## Campus play goes “Wild”

### [Maneesha Limaye](#)



April 13th, 2007 by Maneesha Limaye

The provocative musical “The Wild Party” will make its first Bay Area appearance in Memorial Auditorium tonight as the Ram’s Head Theatrical Society kicks off its annual spring production.

Director Merritt Forrest Baer ‘07 called award-winning composer Andrew Lippa’s score “seductively written, both deeply complex and compellingly sensual.”

Ram’s Head Theatrical Society sorted through 1,500 musicals before selecting “The Wild Party.”

“The show is rarely produced due to its musical and technical complexity, but Ram’s Head decided to embrace this challenge and has taken student theatre at Stanford to the next level,” Producer Cindy Prieto ‘07 wrote in an email to The Daily.

The production staff began working on the show last spring, and cast auditions were held in early January. While they said the play has been laborious and time consuming, the cast and crew said the show’s production has been rewarding.

“It takes an incredible amount of work from many people in order to put on a professional production of as high quality as ‘The Wild Party,’” Prieto said. “In fact, much of the cast and staff spent their spring breaks in MemAud building one of the most impressive sets the Stanford campus has ever seen — various parts of the set actually move mechanically during the show.”

Ram’s Head also improved the acoustics of Memorial Auditorium by installing their own \$10,000 sound system.

“Overall we have stretched the budget to make this the most spectacular musical presented at Stanford,” Prieto said.

Hundreds of tickets have already been sold, and Ram’s Head expects hundreds more to go before the last show, according to Prieto.

“Since few people had heard of ‘The Wild Party’ before now, these great sales figures are a testament to how many people have heard about and are excited by the show,” she said.

Tonight’s show will begin at 8:00 p.m. It will also run tomorrow and from Apr. 19 to 21.





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