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Winter One-Acts features two original plays

[Jennifer Chen](#)



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Senior Chris Labrum and junior Rebecca Whitehurst act out a scene from “Class,” one of two student-scripted plays performed at yesterday’s opening of the annual Original Winter One-Acts.

Ram’s Head Theatrical Society kicked off its annual Original Winter One-Acts yesterday night at the Nitery Theater in Old Union. The show features two student-written plays and a performance by Scenic Root, a Stanford comedy troupe specializing in long-form improvisation.

“Foam,” written by junior Anne Gregory and directed by sophomore Marika Knowles, is about a woman, Jan, who has lost herself and is struggling to regain her sanity.

Set in New York City, the play addresses the lifestyle that comes with being young and single there and deals with the sometimes negative ways in which New York can make people hyperconscious about their own image.

“She’s neurotic, which makes for a very funny play,” Knowles said. “But it’s also an honest look at how women can distort their self-perceptions. Hopefully, the audience will be able to identify with Jan and her self-doubt.”

The scenes span several locations and times, but the entire play actually takes place inside Jan’s head, where she converses with her hard-edged New-York fairy godmother Kristen.

The second play, “Class,” written by Andrew Leeds, Class of 2001, and junior Rebecca Whitehurst and directed by sophomore Ed Iskandar, deals with the relationship between a teacher and a student in a school. The play that will be performed is slightly different from the script that was submitted in the fall.

Originally, the piece was more controversial and dealt with issues of rape and power; but after internal reviews, Ram’s Head decided to alter the script. Consequently, the play is now more focused on romance. Whitehurst plays the lead role.

“It was an interesting dynamic, having the writer play lead role, but it was also very useful to have someone authorize me to make changes and creative decisions, especially because of the issues we had with the script,” Iskandar said.

The production staff was hired last spring; sophomore Brooke Fineberg is the producer. The scripts were read and selected by committee and the artistic staff was hired in the fall, with auditions held in mid-fall. Technical production for the play started then as well. Vince Dorie is the technical director.

In the past, the One-Acts have been extremely popular and have often sold out. The Nitery seats just 80 people, and Fineberg said, “The [One-Acts are] completely student-run, so nearly everyone knows someone who is involved in some way, and people like to see their friends perform.”

Performances will be held at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday, and Jan. 23 to 26. Matinees will be performed at 2:30 p.m. this Sunday and next.

General admission is \$15 and \$9 for students. Tickets are available at White Plaza and at the door.



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