

# 'Taboo' plays come to life

## Student directors stay up nights preparing Tennessee Williams' adult-themed productions

By Liz Purcell  
Verge Reporter

As soon as the Tennessee Williams production is over Sunday night, the three student directors know exactly what they will do next: drink alcohol and get some much needed sleep.

"There's a reason they call it hell week," said Miranda Buob, a senior English and theater arts major.

"Directors are not happy people that week," said Richard Gus, a senior theater arts major. "And actors are the divas of that week."

Buob, Gus and Bill Stinde, a senior theater arts major, have spent most of their time this semester preparing for "An Evening of Tennessee Williams," a production of three plays written by American playwright Tennessee Williams.

"An Evening of Tennessee Williams" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Black Box Theater of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Williams is remembered for his "taboo" plays written about topics such as sexuality, violence and even mental illnesses.

The three plays being performed are "The Long Goodbye," directed by Buob; "The Pink Bedroom," directed by Stinde; and "These Are the Stairs You Got to Watch," directed by Gus.

"These Are the Stairs You Got to Watch" deals with sexual promiscuity, lost innocence and real life situations.

"The Long Goodbye" is about

the loss of family members and flashbacks from the past, and "The Pink Bedroom" is about infidelity.

Buob said the entire production, including the direction, costumes, lighting and props, was completed by students.

She said having students direct the plays generates a more collaborative effort within the cast rather than creating an authoritative feel.

"I think some people take it as it won't be as well done, but I take it as the opposite," Buob said. "People will be more willing to work harder when they feel like they're part of a product."

She said student directors are more in-touch with their student audience because they are all experiencing the transitional stage between college and the "real world."

Gus said the student actors have been pushed to perform better this semester than they ever have.

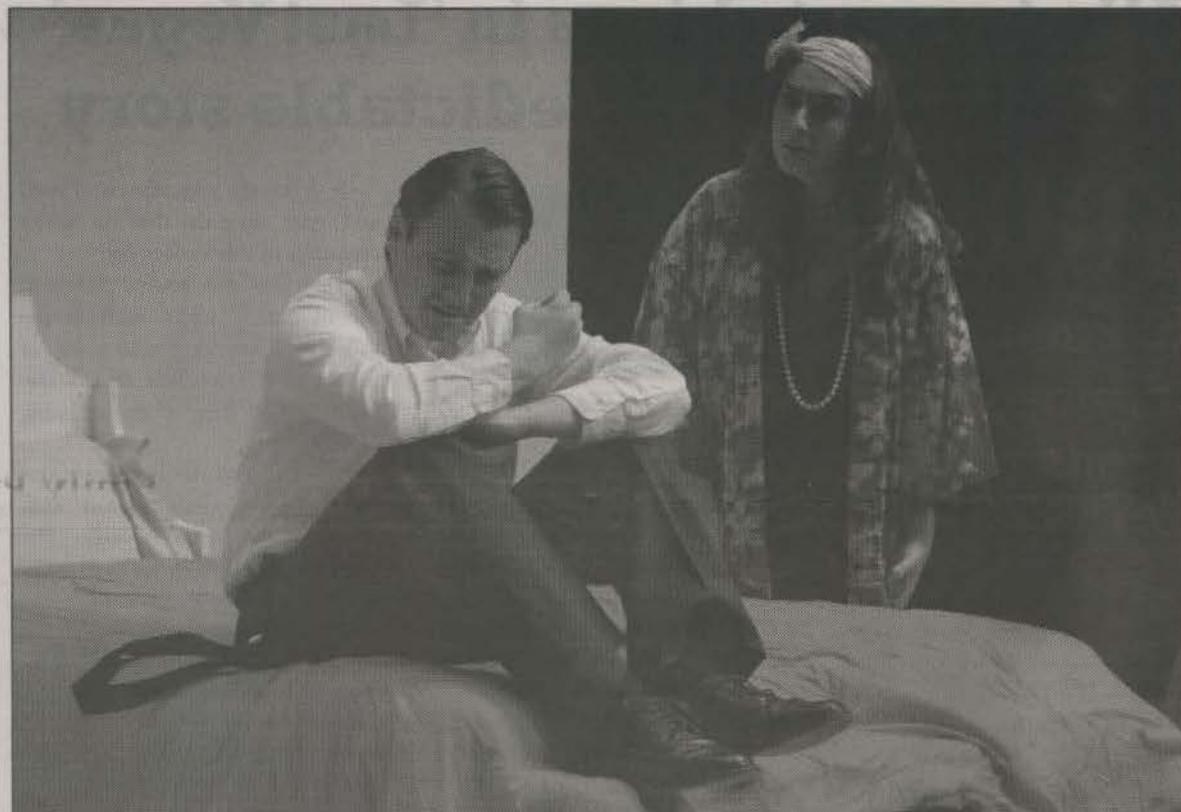
"I think they will see an entirely new form of acting on stage this time than they have seen before," Gus said.

The three directors have led rehearsals, researched scripts, directed actors and held meetings—all on top of their regular schoolwork.

They average about five hours of sleep per night regularly with their workload, and about three hours a night during the week before the production.

"You spend a lot of time hating your life," Buob laughed.

They are each directing their own play using the same group of student actors.



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Sean Copeland, senior journalism major, and Shelby White, a junior communication studies major, act out a scene in the Tennessee Williams play rehearsal Wednesday in the Black Box Theater.



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Shelby White, a junior communication studies major, and Jake Cole, a junior theater arts major, act out a scene in the Tennessee Williams play rehearsal Wednesday in the Black Box Theater.