

Theatre majors present series of one-act plays

By Kara Fohner
Copy Editor

What would you do if bricks of cocaine smashed through your ceiling and landed on the living-room floor? Would you be morally obligated to turn in the loot, or would you, in the same vein as Walter White, decide to profit?

This is the premise of a 10-minute one-act comedy, "Icing on the Cake," that Brevard College senior Addison Dent wrote, cast, and will direct starting tonight at the Morrison Playhouse in the College's Porter Center for Performing Arts.

Dent—along with three other senior Theatre Studies Department majors, Jordan Kahill, Joshua Runkles and Raquan Edwards—will present a series of one-act plays as part of their senior capstone projects.

Each of the student directors chose a play that reflects a compilation of personal experiences, artistic insights, and academic achievements that they have gleaned during their time at Brevard College.

Jordan Kahill selected "Vassal... Vegetable," Sam Post's jarring, emotional drama. This two-actor performance, starring Natalie Comeaux and Stephen Olson, compels viewers to recognize the shards of their own heartbreak.

"I've always been an emotionally charged person," Kahill said. "From my music, to art, to theatre, it all starts with where my soul is in it, and if I find it emotionally satisfying. When I came across this piece I felt a connection with it. I chose this piece not only for my love of the symbolism in the title and within the dictionaries, but because I've been there. I have felt that, and so has everyone else."

Josh Runkles is directing "The A-Word," by Linda Faigao-Hall. Although he is reluctant to reveal too much of the plot, he says that he chose the script for the quality of its craftsmanship.

"The A-Word' explores acceptance for yourself, even when you can't forgive yourself," Runkles said. "Much of this play is pretty depressing, but it has a beautiful message."

Raquan Edwards will present a profound



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Senior Joshua Runkles directing "The A-Word," with performers Andrew Gunnin and Rachael Barrow.

and imaginative story of wish-fulfillment. "Dreams of a Hitman" is an original script that challenges his cast, Blake Ellege, Mary Flynn, and Joshua Goldstein, to penetrate to the core of each character in order to comprehend and express their circumstance.

"We all have dreams that we pursue, but some people don't have the chance to achieve their goals," Edwards said. "The dramatic premise of this is that following your dreams can lead to a more fulfilling lifestyle."

Edwards' goal will soon come to fruition, an achievement that he accredits to Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies Brandon Smith.

"Once I graduate, I'll take more process with me than theatre majors at other colleges," Edwards said. "I've become more prepared, and more creative than I ever thought I'd be. At the end of the day, these tools will only yield fruit."

Addison Dent, like Edwards, chose to actualize his own script. Dent was intrigued by NPR's 2008 coverage of the "White Lobster Phenomenon," when bricks of cocaine washed ashore in Bluefields, Nicaragua. This change of fortune revitalized the barren

economy of a fishing village, but skeptics questioned whether this new source of revenue was a blessing or a curse.

"I started writing last spring, and by Fall 2013 I had several drafts of a comedy that has been in my head since I was 17 years old," Dent said. "The story then was a very serious drama. I have happily been a theatre major all four years, and I have never worked so hard in my life."

Appearing in Dent's play are Molly Ledford, Zif Clark, Hannah Leonard, Kody Adams and Therman Elkins. "It's a blast to be a part of this program and to get the chance to work with such great people," Dent said. "I am extremely lucky!"

Performance times for the plays, performed back-to-back, are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15, and 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 16. Tickets are \$5 and available on Etix.com, and at the doors 30 minutes before each performance. Seating is general admission, so please plan to arrive early.

Questions may be directed to Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies Brandon Smith at smithbm@brevard.edu.