

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TWU Drama presents "Helen"**

The TWU Drama Program recently returned from their performance of "Alice in Wonderland" at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland where they were reviewed by the Scotsman and the students came home exhilarated to get to work on the 2008-2009 season. The season will open with "Helen" by American actress and playwright Ellen McLaughlin. This modern adaptation of "Helen of Troy" seeks to discover whether one can rewrite their past, especially if that past was an illusion. Dr. Patrick Bynane, TWU assistant professor of drama, will direct this production. "Helen" performances will be Thursday October 9 at 4 p.m., Friday October 10 and Saturday October 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday October 12 at 2 p.m. All performances will be at the new Redbud Theater Complex located on the northwest side of historic Hubbard Hall on the TWU campus. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For reservations or more information call the TWU Box Office at (940) 898 2020.

The story of "Helen of Troy" might be well known to audiences; but what is not well known is this story of "Helen," the one where she exists in an Egyptian hotel for seventeen years waiting for the war to end. Helen, portrayed by Sabrina Sia of Lewisville, TX, has spent every day alone in her hotel room with no visitors except her Egyptian servant, portrayed by Taylor Reed of Seattle, WA. The play takes place on the day when Helen's waiting finally comes to an end. She is visited by fellow Greek sex symbol, Io, portrayed by Brittany Fowler of Decatur, TX; the well known Greek goddess Athena, portrayed by Erica Cole of Denton, TX; and finally by the husband she feared she had lost, Menelaus, portrayed by Daniel Pucul of Sherman, TX.

On choosing the play, director Dr. Patrick Bynane said, "The play challenges our notions of the role of beauty in our lives. It also asks us to seriously consider the responsibility we have to our personal histories. We may wish we had happier life stories or more exciting pasts

but, ultimately, we must accept our lives as they have been lived. Helen deals with all of this in a fascinating and challenging manner." TWU Drama's visiting lecturer Rhonda Gorman will serve as scenographer this production, designing both the set and the costumes. Gorman, an M.F.A. graduate from Southern Methodist University, has designed sets and costumes for several professional theatres in Texas, including, the Globe Theatre of the Great Southwest, Kitchen Dog Theatre and the Dallas Opera. Gerald Young of Denton, TX is lighting designer for "Helen;" Christopher Taylor of Tyler, TX serves as stage manager and Colleen Carroll of Irving, TX assists him.

"Helen" by Ellen McLaughlin will be presented in the beautiful new state-of-the-art Redbud Theater Complex. Designed by Bottino Grund of New York and Austin, this 3.2 million dollar project plan proves to be another precious gem tucked in the beautiful campus of Texas Woman's University.

The rest of the 2008-2009 season will include "The Long Christmas Dinner" by Thornton Wilder which runs November 20-23, "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams which runs February 19-22, and William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" which will close the season April 23-26, 2009.

**For ticket reservations call (940) 898 2020**