

From Ireland to Texas to New York – TWU Drama takes ‘The Long March’ to off-Broadway March 31 to April 2

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DENTON – A powerful original play about a tribe of social outcasts searching for a sense of belonging will mark the off-Broadway debut of Texas Woman’s University’s Drama Department when “The Long March” is performed at New York’s Greenwich Street Theatre March 31 to April 2, 2006.

Thirty-two TWU students and six faculty and musicians will travel to New York City to present the original performance art piece written by Irish playwright Martin M. Maguire and directed by Patrick Sutton, director of the Gaiety School of Acting in Ireland.

The three New York performances are Friday, March 31 at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 1 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. To purchase tickets visit www.SmartTix.com or call 212-868-4444. The Greenwich Street Theatre is located at 547 Greenwich Street, located between Charlton and Vandam Streets in Soho.

“It is very rare that university drama students have the opportunity to perform in a production off-Broadway,” said Sharon Benge, director of TWU’s Drama program. “This experience will serve as a wonderful showcase for our drama program and our exceptional student actors and production staff.”

The acting ensemble for “The Long March” is a mix of TWU graduate and undergraduate students and includes: Haley Baldwin of Arlington; Jamie Hogue of Brownwood; Christopher Becher, Brista Hurst, Sashenka Lopez and Alison Trapp of Denton; D’Lytha Myers of Fort Worth; Victoria Irvine of Garland; Jaymes Gregory of Haltom City; Sherrie Wollenhaupt of Highland Village; Ruth Engel of Keene; Thomas Stratton of Krum; Lindsay Turman of Lamesa; Nic Carbonero of McKinney; Tristin Bunting of Plano; Sasha Truman-McGonell of The Colony; and Frances Seman of Wylie.

Musicians include Ms. Lopez; Sherika Gaines of Texarkana; and Dr. Susan Stewart, former coordinator of choral activities at TWU and currently with Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Christina English of Denton is the stage manager for the production and Joshua Hancock of Kilgore serves as the costume designer. TWU faculty Judith Drouin serves as the lighting designer and Ms. Gaines adds to her musician duties by also serving as the assistant stage manager.

[Click here for detailed bios for the director, playwright, cast and production staff.](#)

“The Long March” is the product of an international collaboration between TWU and the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. Mr. Sutton served as an artist-in-residence at TWU in October 2004, working with TWU drama students on improvisation and documenting their work. Mr. Sutton then returned to Dublin and gave the ideas and images to Mr. Maguire, who scripted the play using the students’ work as his inspiration.

TWU undergraduate and graduate drama students performed “The Long March” in January 2005 at the SS Michael and John Theatre in Temple Bar – the avant-garde theater district in Dublin. The play was hailed as “fresh and energetic” by *The Irish Times*, the Irish equivalent of The New York Times. The play also was performed on TWU’s Denton campus in February 2005.

Mr. Maguire and Mr. Sutton will travel to Denton for play rehearsals March 23 through March 26, and then accompany the TWU cast and crew to New York on March 27 for rehearsals at the Greenwich Street Theatre.

The New York production of “The Long March” is generously underwritten by: Paula Britt, Louise Britt Carvey, the Fifth Avenue Foundation, the Garvey Texas Foundation, Pier 1 Imports, Rosalyn G. Rosenthal, Betty Sanders and the Ann Bradshaw Stokes Foundation.

For more information, visit <http://www.twu.edu/soa/drama/default.html>.