



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWU Drama presents 'The Long Christmas Dinner'

Nov. 12, 2008 - DENTON — The Texas Woman's University drama program kicks off the holiday season with Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner" Nov. 20-23.

Performances will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20; at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23. All performances will take place in the Redbud Theater Complex, located on the northwest side of historic Hubbard Hall on TWU's Denton 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 Long Christmas Dinner" follows the Bayard family over 90 Christmas dinners. Through the generations, the family explores the themes of love, death and change.

The play opens with matriarch Lucia (Georgana Jinks of Sachse), her husband Roderick (Talmadge Hill of Denton) and her mother-in-law, Mother Bayard (Mallory Bryant-Gawne of Denton). As time passes, Cousin Brandon (Gerald Young of Denton) joins the family at the table, as well as Lucia's children, Charles (David Gentry of Valley View) and Genevieve (Brittany Fowler of Decatur).

The next generation brings Cousin Ermengarde (Jana Hurst Cox of Dallas), Charles' new wife, Leonora (Colleen Carroll of Irving), and their children, Lucia (Brandianne Kramer of Haltom City), Roderick (Mike Stephens of Fort Worth) and Samuel (Clay White of Whiteface). An ensemble of servants and nurses is made up of Jill Laney of Fort Worth, Elizabeth Lambert of Trenton, David Gutierrez of Corpus Christi, Joanna Wesson of Rowlett and Cassie Henderson of Howe.

The production is directed by Craig Hertel, a local director who teaches at Lindsay High School and is pursuing his master's degree at TWU. Judith B. Drouin, technical director for TWU's drama program, will design the set, and visiting guest lecturer Rhonda Gorman will design the costumes. Lighting design is by master of arts candidate Tristan Decker of Fort Worth, and co-designers Hunter Spoede and Michelle Mata are in charge of sound. Susan Serota, a master of arts candidate from Corpus Christi, will serve as stage manager, assisted by Cecily Coleman of Hobbs, N.M.

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