

Volume 25, Number 3, Sept. 30-Oct. 13, 2002

### **TWU THEATRE OPENS SEASON WITH *THE DIVINERS***

The TWU drama department's production of Jim Leonard's *The Diviners* is a prime example of that theatre adage, "The show must go on."

When they learned that ongoing utility construction on TWU's Denton campus would prevent them from opening the 2002-2003 season in their principle facility, Redbud Theatre, drama faculty members began searching for an alternate site. They found it in the Patio Building, located next to the Arts & Sciences Building.

The performance will take place at 8 p.m. Oct. 4-5 and 9-12 in the Patio Building. Ticket prices are \$5 for TWU students, children and senior citizens; \$7 for non-TWU students, faculty and staff; and \$10 for adults. For ticket reservations and other information, call the box office at 8-1-2020.

The change in venue required that a stage be constructed at the outdoor site. It also required a change in production. The play originally scheduled to open the season was switched with *The Diviners*, which had been scheduled for February,

"This seemed to be the simplest solution," said Dr. Tony Medlin (drama), director of the production. "*The Diviners* is a relatively straightforward play in terms of staging."

The story, which Medlin describes as a "country, homespun tragedy," is set in Zion, a mysterious rural town in southern Indiana. The order of things is "just not quite right," Medlin said, adding that the town is waiting for resolution.

The main character, a disturbed young man named Buddy Layman, lost his mother, who died while trying to save him from drowning. As a result, Layman is deathly afraid of water, yet is gifted with the ability to divine wells and predict rain. A disenchanted preacher, C.C. Showers, befriends Layman and is intent on coaxing the boy to wash to restore his health, even as he himself resists the efforts of the townspeople to persuade him to restore the town's church, which has burned down.

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**DIVINERS**, *continued*

Medlin said Layman's survival was an unnatural event — the result of a mother's obsession. Layman actually is an angel who cannot return to heaven until he is baptized, Medlin explained. Showers, who is determined not to return to the ministry, does not comprehend that he is an unwitting tool in the hand of God, he said.

"It's a very affecting and human story that has strong elements of ritual," Medlin said, adding that the play has much in common with John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

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**INFORMATION SERVICES SCHEDULES SEMINARS**

Information Services is starting a series of informal sessions focusing on the technology developments at TWU. The sessions will cover Pioneer Portal, classroom equipment, graphic services, the Help Desk, labs and more. Seminars will be held on Thursdays in ASB 107 from 12:20-12:55 p.m. Seminars are:

Oct. 3

- Overhead or Projector or Elmo? An introduction to the equipment beyond overhead. Presenters will be Casey Foulds and Bill Megee.

Oct. 10

- Pioneer Portal. A discussion of the Pioneer Portal and its uses. Presenter: Kim Grover-Haskin.

Oct. 17

- Graphic Services. A forum on graphic services available for presentations. Presenter: Brian Elmore.

Oct. 24

- Help Desk. An overview of Help Desk services. Presenter: Jason Brison.

Oct. 31

- Where's the Remote? Getting technology problems handled with assistance from the Help Desk. Presenters: Jason Brison and Norma Riddle.

Nov. 7

- Venus. Discussion of Venus accounts and services. Presenter: Norma Riddle.

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## **PIONEER PROUD AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT**

Nominations are being sought for the Pioneer Proud Staff Awards.

The awards are designed to honor and recognize the invaluable contributions of non-teaching personnel to the continuing success of TWU. The Pioneer Proud Staff Award provides a way to show appreciation for the many people who contribute to excellence at TWU.

All non-faculty full- and part-time employees are eligible and can be nominated by staff, faculty, students and constituents of TWU. An employee may be nominated more than once. Nominations do not have to be for employees within your own unit.

Information forms and details on the program are available at [www.twu.edu/staffcouncil/pioneerproud/ppnomform.htm](http://www.twu.edu/staffcouncil/pioneerproud/ppnomform.htm).

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## **NEWSBRIEFS**

**Information and news about activities, programs or TWU people may be sent to the Office of Marketing and Communication through campus mail, by fax to 8-1-3463 or by e-mail to [info@twu.edu](mailto:info@twu.edu). The deadline to receive information is every other Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the following week. Student information for the "People" section is not published unless it is submitted by or in conjunction with a faculty member and that faculty member's related activities.**

**Dr. Thomas K. Brown** (music) will perform a faculty organ recital at 8 p.m. on Oct. 8 in the Margo Jones Performance Hall. Admission is free. He will be assisted by Dr. James Hobbs on English horn and oboe and Dr. Pamela Youngblood on flute in a varied program of organ and woodwind music. Included in the performance will be the rarely heard "Chant pour Orgue" by Jacques Ibert.

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The TWU Pioneer School Parent-Teacher Group raised \$600 at its recent garage sale. The organization thanks those who made donations to the sale.

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## UPDATE ON TWU PEOPLE

Please submit "People" items (faculty and staff only) to the office of marketing and communication by campus mail or by e-mail to [info@twu.edu](mailto:info@twu.edu). Include first and last names (no initials, please) and appropriate titles (ie. Dr.).

Dr. **Judith Bean** is the new assistant vice president for academic affairs. She had been interim vice president since November 2001.

**Pamela C. Schute**, M.D., is the new director of student health services. Previously, she was an independent physician doing contract with for the Denton County Health Department.

Dr. **Phyllis Bridges** (English) presented research on legendary Texas rancher Molly Dyer Goodnight at the National Western Heritage Symposium in Lubbock on Sept. 7. Her presentation was covered by the *Dallas Morning News* and featured in the Texana column of the DMN on Sept. 22.

**John Cissik** (wellness services) has had three videos released with Healthy Learning Videos. The videos are: Upper Body Exercise Techniques, Dumbbell Exercise Techniques and Total Body Exercises with Dumbbells. He also had an article titled "Ab Blasting" published in the September issue of *Health and Fitness Sports Magazine*.

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## GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Dr. Sondra Ferstl (research and grants) announces the following TWU faculty have received grants:

- Dr. **Lene Symes** (nursing-Houston) and Dr. **Kathryn Tart** (nursing-Houston) have been awarded \$5,000 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the period from Sept. 1, 2002 to Aug. 31, 2003 for a project titled the "Professional Nursing Incentive Grant Program." The goals of the project are to increase student retention with a nurse tutor who will guide students to learning strategies that enhance the likelihood they will learn pre-clinical course material, and to provide an experienced professional nurse mentor so that students will have an understanding of the professional nurses' role in health care before they enter clinical courses.

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**THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT TWU: Sept. 30-Oct. 13, 2002**

Sept. 30-Oct. 3	-Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Tue., Oct. 1	-Pioneer Volleyball vs. Midwestern State, 7 p.m., home -Pioneer Soccer vs. Northeastern State, 1 p.m., away
Fri., Oct. 4	-Library open 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. -Pioneer Soccer vs. West Texas A&M, 4 p.m., away
Oct. 4-5	-Pioneer Volleyball, Lone Star Conference Tournament, away
Sat., Oct. 5	-Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. -Pioneer Soccer vs. Midwestern State, 2 p.m., away
Sun., Oct. 6	-Library open 2 p.m.-midnight; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 1-6 p.m.
Oct. 7-10	-Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Tue., Oct. 8	-Pioneer Volleyball vs. Texas Wesleyan, 7 p.m., home -Faculty recital, Dr. Thomas Brown, 8 p.m., Margo Jones, free
Thur., Oct. 10	-Pioneer Volleyball vs. Southeastern Oklahoma, 7 p.m., away
Fri., Oct. 11	-Library open 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. -Pioneer Soccer vs. East Central, 4 p.m., home
Sat., Oct. 12	-Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. -Pioneer Volleyball vs. Texas A&M-Commerce, 6 p.m., away
Sun., Oct. 13	-Library open 2 p.m.-midnight; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 1-6 p.m.