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TWU Drama Program Announces 2016-17 Season

June 16, 2016 – DENTON – The TWU Drama Program's 2016-17 season features a world premiere, a 20th century classic adaptation of a 5th century BC tragedy, a new work from England that explores the power of love and a fan-favorite musical.

All shows will take place in Texas Woman's University's Redbud Theatre, located on the northwest side of historic Hubbard Hall on the university's Denton Campus. Tickets for all shows are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Additionally, TWU Drama offers a pay-what-you-can option available at every Saturday 2pm performance. For a complete schedule and to purchase tickets online visits www.twu.edu/drama and click on "Box Office". For more information call the TWU Box office at (940) 898-2020.

The season opens with Jean Anouilh's classic retelling of Sophocles' *Antigone*, translated by Jeremy Sams. The play will be directed by Associate Professor Steven Young. Anouilh's *Antigone* faithfully follows the powerful plot of the classic original but does so while reflecting the time period in which it was written – 1940's Nazi occupied France. Antigone's fateful choice between obedience to the state or to her convictions has rarely been told in so powerful a way. The show will run October 12-16, 2016.

In November, TWU Drama is proud to present the world premiere of *Gun Show*. Written by Steven Young and directed by Program Director Dr. Patrick Bynane, *Gun Show* will explore the fraught nature of our society's current conversation about guns. Young and Bynane will collaborate with TWU Drama students to create this original script. The show will run November 16-20, 2016 and will also tour to the Edinburgh International Fringe Festival in August 2017.

In February, Assistant Professor Dr. Noah Lelek will direct *LoveSong*. This 2011 play from award-winning playwright and screenwriter Abi Morgan creatively travels through the history of a couple: from first love to aging companions. Roaming through various points in their life together, *LoveSong* explores the ups and downs of Billy and Maggie's relationship. The show will run February 22-26, 2017.

The season will conclude with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* by Rebecca Feldman with music and lyrics by William Finn, a book by Rachel Sheinkin and additional material by Jay Reiss. This will be the biennial production for the Music Theatre Certificate Program, co-produced by the Music Department and the Drama Program. Drama Program Director Dr. Patrick Bynane will direct this hilarious and surprisingly touching musical following the misadventures of seven young competitors vying for the title of spelling bee champion. The show will run for two weekends in April, beginning April 13-15 & 20-23, 2017.