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Fall Theatre and Dance Season Opens with Drama "The Yellow Boat"

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- David Saar's drama "The Yellow Boat" will run Sept. 29-Oct. 3 in Johnson Studio Theatre.
- Erin Lee, a senior theatre major from Lexington, S.C., will direct the play.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The human spirit can endure, even thrive, in the worst circumstances. Winthrop's **Department of Theatre and Dance** will explore this uplifting concept in the production of David Saar's "**The Yellow Boat**," the first play of the fall 2010 season.

The highly abstract play will run Sept. 29-Oct. 2 at 8 p.m. nightly and Oct. 3 at 2 p.m. in **Johnson Studio Theatre**. Saar's work is based on the true story of the playwright's son, Benjamin, and Benjamin's lifelong struggle with hemophilia and AIDS. "**The Yellow Boat**," which is filled with dance and color, shows the pain, sorrow and triumph of a life well lived in the wake of terminal diagnosis.

These weighty yet relevant issues are what pushed **student director Erin Lee**, a senior theatre major from Lexington, S.C., to direct the emotional, rich and inspiring play.

"There is something about this piece – the beauty and honesty of it – that spoke to my heart," said **Lee**. She added that she hopes theatregoers will take away a message of hope and a sense of urgency to make the most of their lives while they can. "**The Yellow Boat**" is the first full-length play **Lee** has directed.

In spite of the play's serious undertones, **Lee** believes "**The Yellow Boat**" has a life-affirming message at its core.

"It's a play about life, about finding the moments that make life hopeful and beautiful and finding the color and joy in little everyday moments. Because at the end of life, no matter how long that is, that is what we look back on," said **Lee**. "These joys are what make life worth living."

Theatre and Dance's production of "**The Yellow Boat**" is part of **Family Weekend 2010** at Winthrop. Performance seating is limited, and no late seating will be permitted after performances have begun.

Tickets for the Sept. 29-30 performances are \$5 with Winthrop I.D. and \$10 for the general public, while tickets for remaining shows are \$8 with I.D. and \$15/general public. To purchase "**The Yellow Boat**" tickets, contact the box office at 803/323-4014 or boxoffice@winthrop.edu for tickets.

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