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## Students to Perform The Vagina Monologues

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## Students to Perform *The Vagina Monologues*

February 12, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Members of Illinois Wesleyan's Tri-lota, the women's studies honor society, will sponsor three performances of *The Vagina Monologues* Thursday, Feb. 15 through Saturday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. in the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington). Doors will open at 7 p.m. for "Vagina Fest" preceding the show, during which there will be informational and fun booths concerning women's sexual health and body image.

The show is \$1 for those with a valid IWU ID and \$2 for those without; however, there is a \$5 suggested donation. Ninety percent of the proceeds will benefit the Neville House, a local domestic violence shelter, and ten percent will go towards the National V-Day campaign, which is focusing this year on women in conflict zones.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and young girls. It is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations, and generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery. V-Day's 2007 theme, "Reclaiming Peace," seeks to make a connection between the worldwide anti-violence work of thousands of V-Day activists with a desire for peace and for an end to armed conflicts.

Its author, Eve Ensler, first performed *The Vagina Monologues*, a collaboration of real women's accounts, off-Broadway in 1996. The monologues dive into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage and excitement buried in women's experiences. Villard Books/Random House first published the book, which includes a foreword by Gloria Steinem, in February 1998, and a special V-Day edition was released in February 2001.

Tri-lota president and organizer of this year's show, Brynn Weinstein, an English literature major with a women's studies and theatre double minor, started the monologues' performance three years ago with a cast of around seven people. This show will include about thirteen people. Weinstein first decided to host a performance at IWU after attending auditions for the show at Illinois State University in 2004. "Reading the book changed my life," she said, and she is now considering a future in women's issues and research regarding women's rights. "I especially love this show because it combines theater with activism. It's what I want to do."

Upcoming Tri-lota events will include service projects and visits from the Clothesline Project, which displays t-shirts made by abused women, and the Guerilla Girls, who talk about negative images of women in the media.

For additional information about the monologues or about Tri-lota, contact Weinstein at [bweinste@iwu.edu](mailto:bweinste@iwu.edu).

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