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Saint Mary's Performing Arts presents musical theater mashup, April 20-23

Submitted by Benjamin Enos

The Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department and Theatre Program proudly present an original musical theater mashup, "Willow and Houston Throw the Grad Party of the F*cking Century." Conceived, written, and performed by members of the class of 2023, "Willow and Houston." features original material written by Julian Villegas, combined with songs, scenes, and monologues from contemporary plays and musicals. Seniors Skyelar Clouse and Gabriella Thomas round out the dramaturgy, playwriting and editing team, and all three appear in the production, which will run April 20-23 at SMC's LeFevre Theatre. Other senior Theatre majors collaborating on this capstone project include Kenji Costantini, who performs in the production; Kendra Eisenmann, co-costume coordinator and performer; Xavier Romero who performs the title character of Houston; Torren Valera, sound designer; and Miranda Vega, stage manager. "Willow and Houston." unfolded out of the students' inmost desires," said the faculty advisor for the project, Associate Professor Deanna Zibello. "After years of separation from one another and expectations turned upside down, these seniors wanted nothing more than to create one cohesive project together - and to make audiences forget about their cares, and laugh." In this all-too-relatable tale, twins Willow and Houston are throwing a graduation party, and Willow needs it to be perfect. But when old high school enemies show up uninvited, nothing goes as planned. Featuring songs from beloved contemporary musicals like "Spring Awakening" and "Jagged Little Pill," "Willow and Houston." asks the question, how can we cope with an uncertain future in a time of change. Finally, SMC students are mentored and advised in their work by a team of expert faculty and professional guest artists, including Directing Mentor Mike DiSalvo, and Musical Director Patrick Burns. Tickets: \$8 SMC students; \$12 SMC faculty and staff, non-SMC students; \$15 general. Purchase tickets online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/willow-houston. For ADA and other information, contact Performing Arts Coordinator and Events Manager Tara Sundy at 925-631-4670 or tms8@stmarys-ca.edu

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