

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Theatre Students Explore the Transition from Childhood to Adulthood with 'Dandelion Wine'

7:30 p.m. Oct. 6, 7 & 8, Xavier Theatre

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary theatre program presents the theatrical version of renowned author Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6, 7, and 8 in Xavier Theatre on USM's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at the door. Call (913) 758-6152 or go to www.stmary.edu/tickets to purchase advance tickets.

Dandelion Wine is a semi-autobiographical play that delves into Bradbury's own upbringing and childhood and the confusion and change of aging. This play was chosen by USM's fine arts-theatre program because the themes about life resonated deeply with the director and theatre program director Van Ibsen.

"We all experience the transition from childhood to adulthood in different ways. The transition depicted in *Dandelion Wine* seems universal to me and one that any person can identify with," Ibsen said.

"*Dandelion Wine* also evokes the *values* we espouse as a university: community, respect, justice, and excellence. The play depicts a small town community and throughout the play the protagonist has many experiences that teach what it means to be a member of that community."

Ibsen selected senior Sadie Vetter of Parkville, Mo., to play the role of Bradbury's representative character, recasting "Douglas Spaulding" as "Kathy Spaulding."

"The transition this character undergoes is not gender-specific, but human-specific," Ibsen said. "So, when an actress gave the best interpretation of the character of 'Doug' at auditions, it seemed right that 'Douglas' could become 'Kathy.'"

The production stars also stars Sarah Cronkleton-Kidd, Alyssa Dunning, Brianna Font-Wright, Victor Guzman, Amanda Jacobs, Briana Janas, Emily Nold, Patrick Peterson, and Ben Sanders.

Call (913) 758-6152 for tickets or for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.