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## Great Sexpectations yields great results

By *Kalee Iacoangeli, OU Student Writer*

It is everywhere — television programs are filled with it, Internet sites are dedicated to it, magazines advertise it, and all around the world people are talking about it — sex.

Although sex is a hot topic, there are some real dangers and risks associated with it. Great Sexpectations, a touring theater company comprised of a cast of 11 Western Michigan University students, doesn't only talk about those risks but highlights them with an entertaining and realistic performance devoted to the many aspects of sex.

The Great Sexpectations crew, who performed at OU once before in 2001, returned Nov. 4 to give another educationally compelling performance enjoyed by both staff and students.

Joanne Talarek, nurse practitioner and director of Graham Health Center, organized the event in the hopes that students would walk away with something new to think about when it comes to sex and other potentially dangerous situations.

"I think that students don't realize that everyone isn't doing it. Whatever 'it' is, whether it's sex, drinking or drugs," said Talarek, who hopes students who attended the event learned something about the myths of sex and alcohol or even about their own limitations. "Hopefully, they will have a better idea of how to handle difficult situations as well and understand that you don't always have to go along with the crowd.

"It is very difficult to reach the student body with educational material regarding risky behavior. We try to bring venues here that combine entertainment with a message, I think it reaches more people that way."

Students who attended the performance agreed.

"I thought it was very well made," said freshman Ava Haberkornhalm. "It wasn't just another lecture. It wasn't sugarcoated or politically correct. It was raw and real."

"You could tell they are very serious about the performance and were really into it," added freshman Stephanie August. "It really sticks more in your mind that way."

The results of a National College Health Assessment test taken last spring at OU showed the message about risky behaviors may be sticking in the minds of students. The test randomly surveyed 517 Oakland undergraduate students with an average age of 22.

Twenty-five percent of those surveyed claimed to have no sexual partners within the past year, while 53 percent said they had only one sexual partner. Alcohol use also was surveyed. The results showed that 25 percent of the students questioned had never used alcohol before, and that nearly half (47 percent) only drank on occasion.

The collective results of the OU survey were slightly better than the national average.

### SUMMARY

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