



Monday, February 2, 2004

Miss Firecracker Contest comes to Varner stage

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

OU's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is presenting "The Miss Firecracker Contest" Feb. 5-15 in Varner Studio Theatre. This black comedy brings to life the voices of the American South through tenderness, hope and an endless tirade of humor.

The play, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Beth Henley, centers on Carnelle, who is rehearsing for the Miss Firecracker Contest, hoping for a victory to salvage her tarnished reputation and allow her to leave town in a blaze of glory. The arrival of her cousin Elain (a former winner) and Elain's brother Delmount (recently released from an institution) complicates matters. However, with the help of other cheerfully nutty characters, Carnelle perseveres.

OU students perform in the play directed by Thomas Mahard, theatre adjunct faculty. The scenic design is by Brent Wrobel, technical director.

Performance days and times are Feb. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m.; and Feb. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

Ticket are \$12 for general admission and \$6 students, and can be reserved via the Varner Hall Box Office by calling (248) 370-3013. The box office is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m. and one hour prior to each performance.

Tickets also are available through the **Ticketmaster** Web site or by calling (248) 645-6666. Discounts are available for OU employees, seniors and groups of 20 or more.

For more information, visit the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** Web site or contact (248) 370-3013 or mtd@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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