

Student production to dramatize refugees' plight

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ALFRED, NY -- Alfred University students will perform *De Donde?* -- a play by Mary Gallagher dramatizing the hostile reception given Latinos seeking to escape to the United States -- in four shows Wednesday through Saturday (Nov. 29 through Dec. 2.) The Spanish title, which means "Where are you from?" refers to the first words heard by people caught by the U.S. border patrol as they flee economic and/or political oppression in Central America. The production, directed by Stephen Crosbie, chair of the Division of Performing Arts and professor of theater, uses some 20 student actors playing more than 40 characters. "De Donde? is a powerful, moving play that explores the stories of a cross-section of refugees and those with whom they come in contact," Crosbie said. Besides the refugees, characters include the overworked and increasingly cynical lawyers who try to win amnesty for refugees; Catholic nuns who risk imprisonment to provide sanctuary; judges and immigration officials obliged to enforce antiquated and sometimes inhuman laws; and U.S. citizens of Hispanic descent torn between allegiance to their present country and compassion for those fleeing persecution and poverty in the place of their roots. Performances are at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the C.D. Smith Theater, Miller Performing Arts Center. The box office in Miller is open from noon to 4 p.m. each day this week, plus an hour prior to each show. Tickets are \$4 for general admission, free for AU students with valid ID cards, \$2 for other students, and free for children under 12 accompanied by a paying adult. For more information, call (607) 871-2562.#####