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Cal Poly to Stage Pulitzer Prize-Winning 'Heidi Chronicles'

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department will stage six performances of the 1989 Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "The Heidi Chronicles" Thursday through Saturday Feb. 28 to March 1, and March 6 to 8 in the Spanos Theatre on campus. All shows will begin at 8 p.m.

Playwright Wendy Wasserstein wrote several successful Broadway plays between l977 and 2005, the year she died. Her plays explore the lives of bright, funny, accomplished women who try to balance their desires for a lifelong emotional connection with their simultaneous search for intellectual independence.

Hailed as a landmark "history of a generation," her most famous play, "The Heidi Chronicles," depicts 25 years in the life of baby-boomer art historian Heidi Holland. It examines her relationships, career and ongoing quest for self-discovery. Insightful and witty, the play chronicles Holland's often bittersweet journey to "have it all."

The play also provides a glimpse into some significant political and cultural milestones of the time, including Eugene McCarthy's l968 presidential campaign, the 1970s explosion of the women's rights movement, and the "self absorbed" l980s.

Pamela Malkin, associate chair of Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department, directs the production. She has previously directed "Proof," "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" and "Guys and Dolls." Tim Dugan, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, has designed the scenery for the large, episodic production. Senior theatre arts major Lowell Olcott are serving as lighting and multimedia designer. Kathy Dugan is costume designer.

Kerry DiMaggio, a senior theatre arts major, Heidi. Senior theatre arts student Duncan Calladine portrays Scoop Rosenbaum, with whom Holland had a tumultuous emotional relationship. Zachary Johnson plays Peter Patrone, Holland's gay best friend. Theatre arts major Lindsey Geibel is cast as Susan, Heidi's lifelong friend. Theatre arts majors Sarah Butler, Melanie Marshall and Christina Venezia as well as engineering major Matthew Hranek, play multiple roles.

Tickets are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO- ARTS (756-2787). For more information, contact Malkin at 756-6071.

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