

Press Release for VC Theatre

Witchcraft, Lies, and Accusations Plague the Stage

When teenage girls are discovered trying to conjure spirits, the seventeenth century town of Salem explodes with accusations of witchcraft. The vicious trials that follow expose a community paralyzed by terror, religious extremism and greed, and a marriage forever changed. A play that challenges our every notion of good and evil, *THE CRUCIBLE* by Arthur Miller is the first play of Vandebilt Catholic's VC Theatre season.

The Crucible is regarded by many to be one of Arthur Miller's finest theatrical creations. Since its Broadway premier in 1953, the piece has enjoyed worldwide success with endless productions and several screen adaptations. This production reflects Miller's original intention for the piece "stripped of all its brute disguises." The drama reflects the infinite capacity for both goodness and evil that lurks within us all and the enduring power of the human spirit.

A two-act drama that will be sure to engulf the audience in its passion, deceit, and greed, *The Crucible* tells the tale of a small group of teenage girls in 1692 Salem, Massachusetts, who are caught in an innocent conjuring of love potions to catch young men. They are forced to tell lies that Satan had invaded them and forced them to participate in the rites. Fearing punishment, the girls are then forced to name those involved. Thrown into the mix are greedy preachers and other major landowners trying to steal others' land and one young woman infatuated with a married man who is determined to get rid of his innocent wife. The events and the subsequent trials pit accused against victimized: the innocent were executed, those who would not name names were incarcerated and tortured, and those who admitted their guilt were immediately freed.

The play opens with a seasoned cast of VC Theatre actors and actresses in what is surely to be a gripping recount of Salem, Massachusetts, as hysteria and the noose are high.

The show will premiere in Vandebilt's Brother Alfred Kolb Center on December 2, at 7 p.m. and subsequently will be shown on December 3, at 7 p.m. with two matinees on December 3 and 4, at 2 p.m. Ticket cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students; these general admission tickets may be purchased in the front office of Vandebilt Catholic High School or at the door.

The Web address for VC Theatre is www.vandebiltcatholic.org/vctheatre.html.

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