

# Elsewhere Coming to SWOSU Theatrical Stage

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Communication and Theatre is opening its final season in the Old Science Building Auditorium on the Weatherford campus with the world premiere production of Kevin James Daly's *Elsewhere*.

The theatrical production will be staged Saturday, October 6, through Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

Steve Strickler, theatre instructor and director of the production, said SWOSU's new black box theatre should be completed for the fall 2008 season, so this year's theatre season marks the end of an era for the Old Science Building Auditorium, which eventually will be remodeled into classrooms and laboratories.

Strickler has been in direct contact with the playwright of *Elsewhere* throughout the rehearsal process and is excited about the production.

"This has been a very unique experience for us," Strickler said. "Our students have been afforded the opportunity to be a part of what the playwright has called a 'work in progress.' There have been days when I was literally standing at the printer waiting for the next page of the script to print so that I could see how the play was going to end."

The production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's national playwriting program. SWOSU will travel to the state theatre festival in Durant later this fall. Strickler said one of the missions of the KCACTF is the development of new plays.

The playwright is a candidate in the MFA playwriting program at Indiana University. He was introduced to Strickler through SWOSU alum Kyle Davis, who is working on his doctorate in theatre at the same institution.

"Kyle knows my directing style and he knew that I would love this script," Strickler said. "I have always wanted to direct an original script where the playwright is involved in the process. We emphasize the collaborative effort of theatre with our SWOSU students and the playwright is one part of that collaboration that gets left out when you aren't able to produce an original script."

Strickler said this has opened up an entirely new learning experience for the SWOSU student and faculty involved in the department.

Admission to the production is \$5 for adults, \$3 for non-SWOSU students, and free for individuals with an SWOSU ID. For more information, call 580.774.3240.