



“Saving Us Saints”

BY KAY-ANN WILLIS

On August 15, 2006, during Freshman Orientation at the University of the District of Columbia, Dorothy Phaire’s Heralds of Hope Theatre Company performed for the University, “Saving Us Saints,” and captured the audience with its dramatic portrayal of family conflict and teen peer pressure.

It began in the classroom where students met their new professor (Mr. Oliver Berkley) who tried to show them tough love. However, his worst student Romeo (DeWayne Cha-camp), who was Captain of the football team and a ladies man, thought he could control this teacher. Conversely, this was not the case so he diverted his maliciousness to the class nerd, Mary, and made a bet with one of his friends that he could pursue her romantically.

Mary (Janelle Osborne) was the shy but intelligent girl with a bright future. Mary’s problems stemmed from both peer pressure and her household. At home, financial issues including a new baby on the way were tearing the family apart. Mary’s father, Noah Jordan (Burton Morris), did not know how to deal with these problems, and turned to another woman, Diva, for support and affection. However, the Diva Jazz-Rene (Comelita Payton), a well-known nightclub dancer, had other ideas and blackmailed Noah by videotaping them together and threatening to show his wife if he didn’t pay her off.

While Noah was trying to overcome his own devils, his daughter Mary was trying to fit in with the lifestyle of her new boyfriend Romeo, by changing her appearance as well as study habits. However, she managed to resist other pressures such as sex and drugs from her so-called friends.

Noah finally confessed to his wife about his affair, while Romeo lost the bet with his friend, by falling in love with Mary.

“Saving Us Saints” was written and directed by Dorothy Phaire, with lighting and screen design by Prince NO-RA. For future theatrical events, please contact Prof. Phaire at 202-274-5620.