

3/5-7: 'Vagina Monologues' opens up dialogue at V-Day performances

by Jennifer McClellan - Mar. 2, 2010 03:58 PM The Arizona Republic

Actions may speak louder than words, but for the people who perform "The Vagina Monologues" during V-Day, an international movement aimed at ending violence against women, actions start with words.

'The Vagina Monologues'

What: ASU students present "The Vagina Monologues" a part of the 11th annual V-Day event aimed at stopping violence against women around the world. Proceeds benefit Mesa domestic violence shelter A New Leaf.

When: 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, March 5-7.

Where: ASU Tempe Campus, Murdock Hall (near the Memorial Union). Parking structure on Rural Road and Lemon Street and parking lot on Apache Boulevard and Normal Street.

Admission: \$15 general admission, \$12 students, \$10 peticket for groups of 15 or more.

Details: asuvday.com

"The power of words is that they open up a safe space to talk about what are often very difficult issues," said Susan Celia Swan, a spokeswoman with the national V-Day organization.

Born 12 years ago from Eve Ensler's groundbreaking play "The Vagina Monologues," V-Day has grown into a worldwide movement meant to open a dialogue about issues women around the world face, including abuse, rape and subjugation. Ultimately, the movement hopes to end violence against women.

In 2009, more than 4,200 V-Day benefit events took place in more than 130 countries produced by volunteer activists.

In the Valley, students at Arizona State University have performed Ensler's play for the past 11 years, and Estrella Mountain Community College for the past four.

Every year the casts donate the proceeds to local women's-support organizations. ASU's generally raises \$8,000-\$15,000 each year from the play and other fundraisers. Last year Estrella Mountain raised \$280 from the play, and hopes to double that number this



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