



# Staten Island Advance

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## Benefit performances of 'Vagina Monologues' at Wagner College on Saturday, Sunday

By ERIC PETILLO

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — For the past four years, Eve Ensler's groundbreaking 1996 episodic play "The Vagina Monologues" has been a staple in the Wagner College student theater scene.

Each year, around this time, a talented and devoted group of Wagner women gather together to produce Ms. Ensler's celebratory piece on the female reproductive organ and give back to the Staten Island community through the proceeds they raise.



This year, the annual production, which will be directed by senior Lisa Tinglum, has chosen to donate 100 percent of their profits to Safe Horizon, the Stapleton-based women's group whose mission is to move victims of violence from crisis to confidence.

"Eve Ensler has a big focus on activism," states Ms. Tinglum, who is originally from Littleton, Co. "She mandates that all proceeds to go a women's organization of the production's choosing."

"I chose Safe Horizon because

Wagner has had a great relationship with them in the past. If a student here finds themselves in a crisis situation, Safe Horizon has become a popular and reliable resource to turn to."

"The Vagina Monologues," which is usually put up through the student theater organization, Completely Student Productions, will now be co-produced with the Wagner student-life association, Residential Education (or Res. Ed. for short.)

Tinglum, who works as a resident assistant on the Grymes Hill campus, says "Res Ed has been a wonderful resource to put this on through because they really wanted to shift the focus from this being just a theater piece to functioning as an educational tool."

She also added that some of her experiences as an R.A. have inspired her to to direct this play.

"I've seen certain situations where a female student had been subjected to physical or verbal abuse. As an R.A., we are trained to immediately take action and remove the student from the situation."

"The Vagina Monologues' talks about and seeks to educate its audience about some of these issues, and I really wanted to help get these important stories out there."

The cast is comprised of all Wagner students, and includes Becca Barrett, Melissa Brenman, Valerie Caniglia, Molly Delbridge, Kellie Griffith, Regina Ippolito, April Lavallo, Marti Maley, Allison McCormack, Stacey Mattern, Elise Sacco, Mackenzie Shay, Payton Sherry, and Taylor Stabler.

Showtimes are Saturday and Sunday at 9 p.m. in Wagner's Gatehouse Lounge. There will be a suggested donation of \$2, and an open raffle.