

## **MVC Presents The Vagina Monologues March 22-24**

The Vagina Monologues, an award-winning play by Eve Ensler, will be presented Wednesday, March 22 through Friday, March 24, at 8 p.m., in the Black Box Theatre on campus. Admission is \$3 per person. T-shirts will be offered for sale at \$12 each. The proceeds will go to organizations that fight violence against women, with 90% going to our local Light House Shelter and 10% going to the V-Day fund that helps women throughout the world.

This play is not for everyone. It contains sexually explicit language. It is funny, but it is also vulgar, gruesome, and sad. In writing a play about vaginas, Ensler wanted to make audiences aware of the way women's bodies have been exploited and abused. She wanted to help women feel empowered in their bodies, not ashamed of them.

The Vagina Monologues is based on interviews conducted by playwright Eve Ensler with more than 200 women. She asked them about their sexual experiences, including incidents of incest and sexual violence. Ensler initially performed The Vagina Monologues as a one-woman show in 1996, and as she toured the country with the play, women told her stories of violence committed against them. Ensler has continued to change the play, adding and deleting monologues over the years. A number of professional companies have produced it, and in 2002, it was produced as an original HBO documentary.

In 1998 Ensler established V-Day, a campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and to combat it. (The "V" in V-Day stands for valentine, violence, and vagina.) In February and March each year, Ensler allows groups of women to produce The Vagina Monologues free of charge under certain conditions. For college students, the main rules are that they are limited to three performances, they must charge admission, and the proceeds must benefit women who have been victims of violence. MVC student Kate Steel obtained permission to organize a V-Day campaign for Valley, and so we join 15 other schools in Missouri and hundreds of schools across the country who will present The Vagina Monologues this year.

For more information visit <http://www.vday.org/main.html>.