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## Festival to feature student pieces

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On a college campus, you can always find a festival - an art festival, a music festival, a dance festival.

And now there is a New Works Festival.

Three University of Florida students - two undergraduates and one graduate student - have written full-length plays that will be performed as three separate productions in the Nadine McGuire Blackbox Theatre from April 23-26.

The Florida Players, a student-run theater company sponsored by the University of Florida Student Government, is adding these three shows to its spring showcase, as a packaged New Works Festival, in order to exhibit up-and-coming student playwrights.

"It's great to do Pulitzer Prize-winning shows, but it's even better to do shows when you have the student writers at hand," said Danny Sharron, the artistic director for the Florida Players.

Until this festival, student-written shows at UF have never been given the opportunity to be performed on a university stage, he said.

Each play will have its own opening night, and then all three will be performed again as a marathon of new plays.

Every year, the Florida Players receives submissions of plays and musicals that people would like to see the organization produce.

Because this year the submission committee received three student-written shows, it decided to host a festival to feature local talent.

And, according to Sharron, he would like to see the festival continue annually.

"The Florida Players gives so many people space to express themselves," said Bradley Cherna, a UF sophomore majoring in theater and one of the playwrights featured in this inaugural festival. "Because there are many playwrights at UF, it would be a missed opportunity to not showcase them."

Kent Barrett, a graduate student studying theatrical design and author of "Somewhere, America," Cherna, author of "Eggshells on my Back," and Kay Prins, author of "Where the Bee Sucks," all are excited to see their works performed in front of an audience and are looking forward to the exposure they get from their world premiers, Cherna said.

"My play is like my baby," said Prins, who is graduating in May with a degree in English. "It will be amazing for me to see it get up and walk on its own feet."

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