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For more information, contact:  
Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel  
504.816.4024, office: [shaydel@dillard.edu](mailto:shaydel@dillard.edu)

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DILLARD UNIVERSITY THEATRE PROGRAM PREMIERES *24 HOURS IN THE LIFE OF PONTIUS PILATE***

**NEW ORLEANS** -The Dillard University Theatre Program is set to premiere the *24 Hours In The Life Of Pontius Pilate*, a play based on Mikhail A. Bulgakovs’ *The Master and Margarita*. Local director Natasha Ramer developed the manuscript for *24 Hours In The Life Of Pontius Pilate* after reading Bulgakovs’ once censored novel. Set to debut at The Samuel Cook DuBois Theatre on Dillard’s campus, Saturday, Jan. 19th, *24 Hours In The Life Of Pontius Pilate* production will run between January 19 - 20 and January 26-27. Ticket prices are as follows: Students, \$15; general admission, \$25; and senior citizens, \$20. Patrons can purchase tickets via the Brown Paper Tickets website: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com>. For more information about *24 Hours In The Life Of Pontius Pilate*, call the Samuel DuBois Cook box office at (504) 816-4857 or contact Ray Vrazel at [rvrazel@dillard.edu](mailto:rvrazel@dillard.edu).

*24 Hours In The Life Of Pontius Pilate* is an edgy play that pushes the envelope on how Judeo-Christian history is portrayed in theatre.

“Dillard University’s Theatre program welcomes this exciting opportunity to collaborate with Director Natasha Ramer and production company Moscow Nights. This collaboration will provide Dillard students with performance opportunities and exposure to classical theatre staging. It will also showcase to the Gentilly community and greater New Orleans metropolitan the diversity of Dillard’s theatre production catalog,” said Ray Vrazel, Dillard University assistant professor of Theatre Arts.

*24 Hours In The Life Of Pontius Pilate* follows *The Master and Margarita* plot where The Master wrote a book on Pontius Pilate’s trial of Yeshua Ha-Notsri (Jesus Of Nazareth). Despite Pilate crucifying Yeshua for heresy, The Master’s book reveals how Pilate had a spiritual affinity for him. The Master’s book continued to unfold under the theme that humans have a dual relationship with their God(s) and can face repercussions when they allow human nature to overrule their faith.

Unfortunately, The Master’s book on this prolific moment in Christianity was not well-received, therefore, making The Master bitter. Because his book received underwhelming reviews, The Master decided to burn his manuscript and isolate himself from people, including his lover, Margarita. *The Master and Margarita* continues with Margarita accepting the Devil’s offer to become a powerful witch on Good Friday so that she can liberate women from the alleged cursed placed on them since Eve ate from Tree of Knowledge. Bulgakovs’ novel ends with Margarita and The Master in an afterlife realm of spiritual limbo because their choices displeased God and they lacked supernatural faith while they were alive.

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*Dillard University, located in New Orleans at 2601 Gentilly Blvd., is a private four-year liberal arts historically black institution with a history dating back to 1869. For more information, please visit [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu). Also, follow us on Twitter, Facebook @DU1869 and Instagram, Dillard University.*