Play draws supporters and critics

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In spite of the controversy over the recent production of the Vagina Monologues, quite a crowd turned out to view the production at the Skutt Student Center Ballroom and stayed after for the panel discussion last Thursday. Only 50 people were expected, but more than 500 showed up for the event.

Although some protestors were expected and Public Safety officers worked under cover at the Monologues, the only exciting thing that happened before the play was the shortage of chairs, caused by the larger than expected crowd.

“We were all in the back getting ready and no one warned us,” said Jaclyn Shulie, Arts & Sciences junior. “I walked out and saw all the people. That's when my knees started shaking.”

Even though the cast was nervous, the audience didn’t notice and thought the acting was superb.

“The performers did an amazing job,” said Elizabeth Snow, Arts & Sciences sophomore.

Marcy Ball, Degelman Hall resident director and director of the Eileen B. Lieben Center for Women, was impressed with the students’ performance.

“I thought the actors and actresses did a fantastic job,” she said. “I was impressed with their dedication and it took a lot of guts to get up in front of so many people.”

The crowd was pleased with the production which was apparent by the roars of laughter and the moments of silence.

“I was really pleased with the audience’s reaction,” Ball said. “They seemed really into the show.”

After the show, many of the students stayed for the panel discussion. This turned out to be students talking about their reactions and sharing personal experiences.

Arts & Sciences sophomore Meghan Hasselbauer thought that the discussion went well.

“It showed that we are mature enough to deal with these issues,” she said.

Many people related their personal experiences to a part of the monologues and shared it with the group. Eileen Hunter, related with the poem about how women wear short skirts to feel empowered and beautiful, not to attract attention.

“You're not calling for anything,” she said. “You're looking at yourself and saying I like what I see so I'm going to wear what I want to wear.”

Many other students also enjoyed certain aspects of the Vagina Monologues. Hasselbauer liked how the play was a mix of humor and seriousness and thinks that is a good way to reach people with an important message.

Snow also enjoyed the Monologues, which she said are powerful and moving.

“I thought Creighton’s performance was very good,” she said. “It was actually more conservative than the one I saw in Denver, but it fit the campus well.”

Some of the students were a little