CU students write two of three one-act plays

Two of the three upcoming one-act productions are written by Creighton students. Neither of the scripts has been produced before.

David P. Muma, a Jesuit scholastic living at the Campion House, is directing his script, "Doing Anything for Dinner?"

The second script is Arts junior Bill Cook's "Eggs (Sunny Side-up)."

Muma said his show is a comedy about relationships. He said the goal of his writing is to present life in an entertaining way to hopefully motivate people to look more closely at their lives.

"I guess I've been acting since I was four years old," Muma said. He said he's been experimenting with writing since he was 14 and has been writing seriously for about two years.

Muma said it's hard to be objective about his own work. He said he has gone to others for their opinion of the script and hasn't received any bad feedback so far.

"It's not very frightening to be responsible for a show," Muma said. "You have no one to blame if it's bad. But, you take the credit if it's good."

Muma said it's a satisfying feeling to see an idea come alive. But he said actors may be at a disadvantage working with a director who's also the writer.

"You have such definite ideas of who the characters are," he said. "You want to tell the actors how to be the character rather than letting them create a character of their own."

Muma said Creighton receives artistic advantages by allowing original works to be produced.

Muma said he predicts staging "Doing Anything for Dinner?" will help the script through the refining process. This opportunity is unique," he said.

"This is the first Jesuit written and directed show in recent years, possibly ever," he said.

Unlike Muma, Cook decided not to direct his own show. Michael Leahy, Arts junior will direct Cook's "Eggs (Sunny Side-up)."

Cook said he considered taking a part in "Eggs," but decided he'd rather just sit back and watch.

He says his show developed from a short story and is about relationships and how people view each other in them.

Cook said he wrote a few plays in high school, but this is the first one to be staged.

"I'm dying to see the show," Cook said, "but that doesn't mean that I'm not nervous."

He said Leahy has asked his opinion on some things. Cook goes to rehearsals once a week to offer comments. Leahy said he feels it's an advantage to have the playwright available.

"It's Michael's show from now on and I'm glad to abide by his decisions," Cook said.

Leahy said they agreed on lighting the set in advance, but each visualizes various aspects differently.

"It's very different directing the script," Leahy said. "I can't refer to any other sources. He said it makes it tough for actors because they're doing something never done before."

Leahy said he believes it's a great idea to produce original plays. He said it makes Creighton more attractive to prospective theater students and writers.

The one-acts will be shown Nov. 29, Dec. 1 at the Performing Arts Center.