SYNOPSIS OF DEVIL DOG SIX

(A comic drama in one act; running time 95 minutes)

TIME: The present

PLACE: New Orleans and Bossier City, Louisiana. A stylized set suggests the Fair Grounds Race Course, Louisiana Downs, Bossier City Hospital, Tramore Farms, and a church

CHARACTERS: (an ensemble cast of 4 men and 2 women play 24 characters)

ACTOR #1: Devil Dog Six, Gowran Gillespie, Fonner Brighton, Mambo Santa Anita **ACTOR #2**: Mister Emory, Doctor Calder Maywood, Ellis Hastings, Jean-Pierre Cluny,

Omer Nad al Sheba, Vodoun Dancer

ACTOR #3: Ignatz Katz, Bernard Tramore, Perth Dunstall, Vodoun Dancer

ACTOR #4: Sir Edward's Eyes, Vernon Laroche, Sydney Brisbane, Vodoun Dancer

ACTOR #5: Crown Ruby, Josselin Tramore, Retama Solano, Chester Blain

ACTOR #6: Esa's Pride, Devon Tramore

SYNOPSIS: Devil Dog Six evokes the world of horse racing with its eclectic mix of ethnicities and eccentric personalities. The play begins in Bossier City Hospital where a young woman jockey named Devon Tramore is recovering from a traumatic fall that caused multiple fractures and painful cerebral swelling. Instructed to ease the swelling by reducing the flow of information, Devon sits in a darkened room in utter silence, attempting to think of nothing. Finding the task unbearable, Devon's spirit spins out of her body to her mother's farm where she befriends several thoroughbreds, including a colt named Devil Dog Six. Devon's daily journeys give her unique insights into the world of horses as she absorbs their language, movements, and characteristics. She whinnies, gallops, and attracts flies which confounds Devon's parents, her physician, and a nurse who believes in the healing powers of Voodoo. Meanwhile, an investigation into Devon's accident uncovers a possible plot by resentful jockeys to harm her. The investigator also probes into Devon's romance with an African-American groom who works on her mother's farm. Despite a pessimistic prognosis, Devon's ambition, newfound powers, and her dream of riding Devil Dog Six in The Dixie Derby help her heal and resume her career. Soon Devon becomes the sole rider of "The Devil" and wins every race; however, when the time comes to enter the high stakes Dixie Derby, the Saudi owner chooses a male jockey with a better ranking. Devon's disappointment turns to fury, and she indulges in schemes that compromise her relationships and integrity.

THEMES: *Devil Dog Six* deals with issues of gender equality in sports, racial and class discrimination, animal adoration, religion, and science. The play is also about raw, untamed ambition gone awry in a culture that encourages competition and fosters the mentality that winning justifies any means.