



Please Talk... goes national

Pictured at the national launch of 'Please Talk' are some of the Students Union representatives from all seven Irish Universities who have joined forces to encourage students to seek support through the Please Talk student support campaign.

Please Talk, the student support campaign encourages students who are struggling with

anxiety to perceive seeking help as a sign of strength rather than a sign of weakness, to make contact with the support services available. The campaign was initially introduced in UCD in early 2007, due to its continued success, the campaign has been adopted by all seven Universities.

UCD Community Musical

UCD students & staff performing in West Side story



O' Reilly Hall UCD was transformed into a glamorous Broadway Theatre from 14-16 February 2008 when UCD students and staff collaborated in a production of Leonard Bernstein's modern reworking of Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story.

The first show of its kind at UCD, West Side Story was produced by Student Advisor Anna Farrell and presented to a packed house at each of its four performances. The entire cast and production team was made up of talented volunteers from across the campus community. This entertainment environment allowed students and staff alike to reveal musical and theatrical talents, some of which may never have been exposed prior to this production.

Director of the musical, UCD Graduate Aoife Brady described West Side Story as 'one of the most challenging musical theatre performances ever'. The musical survives as one of the Broadway classics due to its timeless story and intensity of characters. UCD's actors and crew achieved in conveying this urban love story in four performances over two days.

The musical was initiated to encourage community building throughout the University.

Many of the university's societies and clubs were active in the musical's organisation, including DramSoc, UCD Symphony Orchestra, PhotoSoc and FilmSoc. This spirit of co-operation illustrated in the musical's production has proven that an atmosphere of community is possible in a largely populated university.

Dr Martin Butler, Vice-President for Students, who was heavily involved with the project said 'The Musical was a great success. It succeeded in bringing staff and students together in an event, which showcased the best of UCD. It created an event that illustrated the energy and creativity that the university holds'. Dr Butler also added that 'the sponsors of the production were delighted with its success'.

The proceeds of West Side Story went to UCD Volunteers Overseas. This organisation gives university students an opportunity to visit developing parts of the world to get actively involved with charity work during the summer break.

Due to the success of this year's production those involved in the musical have already begun planning for a similar event next year.