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Harding Fine Arts Academy Drama Students Tackle the Crime of the Century

It was considered the crime of the century. Two college boys commit a murder - not for gain, or out of passion - just to do it, just to experience the thrill. Nathan Freudenthal Leopold, Jr. and Richard Albert Loeb were two wealthy students at the University of Chicago who in May 1924 kidnapped and murdered 14-year-old Robert Franks in Chicago.

Based on the infamous 1924 trial of Leopold and Loeb, "Never the Sinner" is their story, and the story of one of the most famous American lawyers and civil libertarians, Clarence Darrow. Darrow is called in to defend the monstrous and win freedom for the wicked. Darrow's 12-hour-long summation at their sentencing hearing is famous for its criticism of capital punishment. Both men were sentenced to life imprisonment plus 99 years.

The drama students of Harding Fine Arts Academy (HFAA) will be performing an act from "Never the Sinner" as part of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activity Association's One Act Play competition. HFAA will be competing in the 5A division on October 6th at Bishop McGuiness High School.

Nathan Leopold and Richard Albert Loeb are being played by HFAA juniors, Andrew Richerson and William Day. Famed attorney, Clarence Darrow is being played by senior Sean Smith.

The general public is invited to attend a preview of the performance on Monday, October 3rd at 4:00 in the Harding auditorium. There will be no charge for this performance.

Harding Fine Arts Academy is an Oklahoma City charter school that prepares high school students for college in an academically challenging, arts-integrated environment and has recently been named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Harding Fine Arts Academy is located at 3333 N. Shartel Avenue, Oklahoma City 73118. For more information contact Linda Lightner at (405) 702-4322 or llightner@hfaaokc.org.

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