

## Hanes Theatre fall play features veteran cast and slapstick humor

SAM NIELSEN

Chapel Hill High School students will perform *George Washington Slept Here* November 20-22 as Hanes Theatre's fall play.

The play, originally performed in 1942 and later adapted into a movie, is a comedy portraying a New York couple trying their hand at living out in the countryside. This is vastly different from last year's zombie-filled *Night of the Living Dead*.

Thomas Drago, Chapel Hill High School drama teacher and play director, said that the script will be based on the 1942 play rather than the movie adaptation.

"In the play, the wife is upset about the move [to the countryside]. In the movie, the husband is. That really changes the group dynamic," Drago said.

*George Washington Slept Here* was chosen as the school's fall play due to its large cast. Almost every one of the roles will be played by a Hanes Theatre veteran, but some will not.

Senior Nathaniel Wells is

playing Newton, the "squirrely, middle-aged guy" who convinced his wife to move out into the country with him. Despite having been involved in a technical or directing role for every Hanes production since *Hairspray*, this is Wells' first time acting for Hanes Theatre.

Wells' background in the tech department is expressed by what he looks forward to in the play. "I'm really excited for the technical elements of the show ... we are essentially building a house on stage," Wells said, adding that the slapstick humor of the play will create technical challenges, like a chair breaking from underneath someone.

Interacting with the cast has been one of Wells' favorite parts of the production so far. "It's a really, really great group," Wells said. "They all know what they're doing, and everything is very clear."

Junior Anjali Valentine, who will be playing the role of Kimber, the humorous but sly care-



PHOTO CREDIT: SAM NIELSEN  
Seniors Nathaniel Wells (Newton) and McKenzie Ramsey (Annabelle) on set. Ramsey has been in several school plays; this is Wells' first play as an actor, not a technician.

taker of the New York couple's new home, said, "I definitely love who Drago chose for every one of the characters ... I think that everyone can play this to their best."

After last year's departure of the previous technical director, Josh Benjamin, or J.B., Drago

the new tech director, said, "Though I liked J.B., I also really like the new ideas that Mr. Radatz is bringing to the production."

"Working with Radatz has been really excellent. We haven't really pushed ourselves [technically] over the last few years until now, and his vision has been a part of that," Wells said, when asked for his thoughts about Radatz.

The cast and Drago are currently working on each act separately in order to figure out the positioning, movement and dialogue of each character. "Getting really into the characters" has been the greatest challenge so far, according to Valentine.

Drago believes that the production has been going smoothly. Though the play's performance is several weeks away, Wells is confident that it will be enjoyable to watch.

"It's a really excellent and well-written comedy, and if you come and see it, you're gonna laugh," Wells said.

## Nasher art exhibit explores later Miró

ELI ROSE

An exhibit featuring artwork created by Spanish painter and sculptor Joan Miró will be on display at the Nasher Museum of Art until February of next year.

The exhibit opened September 14, and students can visit for a discounted rate of eight dollars if a school ID is shown.

All works in the exhibit were created in the final 20 years of Miró's life, a time period that took place shortly after Miró moved to a new studio where he could reflect on his life's work. This is the first exhibition ever displaying works from this period.

During this final time, Miró created a multitude of compositions based on the human figure, and many other works depicting animal or monster forms moulded with human shapes. These themes fill the exhibit with pieces that seem similar, yet all explore the idea of the human figure differently.

Miró was a very pensive, abstract artist, who often held the company of his fellow Spaniard, Pablo Picasso. Picasso and Miró showed many parallels in style, as well as a common interest in creating evocative art about the Spanish Civil War.

Miró's good-natured relationship with Picasso is openly displayed in the exhibit, as the first piece that the viewer sees upon entrance to the gallery is "Woman, Bird, and Star," a painting that Miró dedicated to Picasso shortly after his death.

"We can't wait for visitors to discover this joyous and inspirational exhibition," museum director Sarah Schroth said.

Schroth believes that the exhibit reflects Miró's brilliant imagination, which was active even near the end of his life and career.

"Miró is one of the great masters of 20th century art, and this show reveals the tireless creativity he experienced in the last 20 years of his life," she said. "His large, gorgeous paintings are filled with unexpected energy of line and color. You have never seen sculpture like this by Miró."

Art teacher Jack Watson visited the gallery and praised the exhibition, recommending it to any interested students.

"It's a career-spanning perspective, so anything like that for a major artist is going to be worthy of attention," Watson said.

Watson admitted that in his opinion, Miró's art was less relevant in his later life than at the apex of his career.

"By [the '70s], art had changed radically and his work seemed kind of quaint and old fashioned by what was happening in the contemporary art scene," Watson said.

Altogether, Watson urged Chapel Hill students to visit the exhibit and enjoy the art. "It's a great exhibition. A lot of people love Miró and would be very satisfied with it," Watson said.

The Miró exhibit runs until February 22.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NASHER MUSEUM OF ART AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

Woman, Bird, Star (top)

Woman IV (bottom)

Spanish artist Joan Miró is the subject of a Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University exhibit, on display until February.



## Cradle hosts rap artists

CARSON GRILL

Local music venue Cat's Cradle will host notable rap artists this fall, aiming to attract fans from all over the Triangle.

The fall performances will be a continuation of the Cradle's hip-hop program, which has featured performances from artists such as Tyler the Creator, Chevy Woods, Kevin Gates and Flatbush Zombies.

Headlining this fall are Ty Dolla \$ign, a member of Wiz Khalifa's Taylor Gang, and Joey Bada\$\$ of the New York rap group Pro Era.

Both artists have experienced a huge growth in popularity over the past two years.

"It's really exciting to see big-name artists coming to the Chapel Hill area," junior Mimi Kramer said.

Ty Dolla \$ign was an underground name before he signed with Taylor Gang Records in July 2013. He was signed the day after he released his acclaimed mixtape *Beach House 2* and is currently touring his most recent release *Sign Language*.

Joey Bada\$\$ rose to popularity in 2012 with the release of his mixtape *1999*. The mixtape was well-received by fellow rapper Mac Miller, who reached out to Bada\$\$ Miller's national worldwide popularity and support for Bada\$\$'s music helped bring Bada\$\$ to the national stage.

Senior Jack Jansen has been a fan of Bada\$\$ since the release of *1999*. "I really like the lyrics



PHOTO CREDITS: CARSON GRILL  
Ty Dolla \$ign raps at his Cat's Cradle performance October 19.

and flow that Joey Bada\$\$ has," Jansen said. "He finds a way to rhyme words that most people would never think of."

Since his collaboration with Miller, Bada\$\$ has released a mixtape called *Summer Knights* and has announced that he will release his debut album *B4.Da.\$\$* in 2014.

Jansen is highly anticipating the release of *B4.Da.\$\$*, but is "looking forward to seeing [Bada\$\$] perform his favorite songs."

Ty Dolla \$ign performed October 19 and Joey Bada\$\$ will be at the Cradle November 4.

Other artists performing during the Cradle's fall hip-hop tour include Flying Lotus October 12,

## Theater classes merge



PHOTO CREDIT: NINA HOFFMEYER

"Techies" and actors work together in the shop to paint and prepare sets, after technical theater and traditional theater classes were combined into one.

With the recent departure of Technical Theater teacher Josh Benjamin, this year's theater classes have merged with Technical Theater counterparts to create combined classes for both actors and "techies," under the tutelage of theater teacher Thomas Drago.

"The students are now taught all areas of theater before they're given an opportunity to specialize in certain areas," Drago said. He credits the change with creating bonds between all students.

Drago teaches four combined theater classes, each encompassing a different level of instruction. "The previous gap between actors and techies is closing," Drago adds. "Students are developing a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of each."

The new format is in line with the NC Standard Course of Study, which states that students will "understand the major technical elements, such as sound, lights, set and costumes, and their interrelationships," as well as "understand how to design technical theater components, such as costumes, sets, props, makeup, lighting and sound," as part of a beginning-level course.

Junior Samantha Lane attributes a building "sense of community" in the theater department to the change. Although she is an actor, she notices that "everyone has more of an appreciation for the work that each group does." She has taken theater classes since her freshman year, and she enjoys the friendships that she is making under the new class format.

"In the past, theater and tech theater have been distant from each other and didn't really mix," Lane said. "Now we all work together to create a project and are getting to know each other really well."

## Students do "public space interventions"

JARED WEBER

It is not every day at school you walk out of your English class to find an impromptu yoga class taking up most of the hallway, but that is exactly what happened to junior Avery Crafts.

"Seeing a yoga class right in the middle of the hallway was not what I expected coming out of [physics class]," Crafts said.

Believe it or not, the flash mob yoga class was actually an untraditional assignment for a Chapel Hill class's curriculum.

The project was one of Honors Visual Arts III and IV's "Public Space Interventions," which were student-led projects that aspire to be creative interruptions of the daily routine.

The projects, assigned by art teacher Jack Watson, aimed to research how students react when odd obstacles are thrown into their normal school regimen. Other projects have ranged from a swarm of students blocking A-building doors while texting, to a couple of small boxes that said "pass it on" moving around campus.

For the yoga assignment, students laid out a full replication of a regular class setting in the science hallway, complete with potted plants and serene music.

Watson stated that the project was met with generally positive results from those who passed by.

"A lot of people revealed [that] the stress of the routine was something that needed to be dis-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK WATSON

Art students (left to right) Abby Stern, Callie Riek, Skylar Frisch, and Lexie Cicale hold a "flash mob yoga class" to observe the different reactions of their peers.

rupted and they enjoyed the yoga class," Watson said.

According to Watson, a couple students even put down their bags and joined in.

Junior Abby Stern had a very positive experience with the yoga flash mob, and said the goal behind the project was to see how the peaceful activity worked against the atmosphere of a hectic school day.

"The purpose of the project was to juxtapose the intense and crowded space with an action that was very relaxing and calming," Stern said. "It really allowed me to reflect on my surroundings."

In another project completed by students, senior Amelia Alllore went to Southpoint Mall and pretended to be a celebrity named "Mimi." Other friends from her art class pretended to recognize her, and begged her for autographs.

Alllore and fellow senior Paige Havener got their fathers to play the roles of bodyguards for the stunt. It worked so well that Southpoint actually ended up sending extra security for "Mimi" just to be sure.

The idea for the project drew from Watson's experiences as an artist and student at the Ohio State University, and he took influences from multiple genres of visual and social art in his planning of the assignment.

Watson enjoyed seeing his students have fun with the project, and hopes the it was eye opening for some of them. He also found it interesting for his students to differentiate between people by their respective reactions.

"Some people proved that the disruption of the daily routine just wasn't for them," Watson said. "They're just jerks."

## Summer movies showcase magic, music, murder and more

What would summer be without the great blockbuster movies? Proconian's Olivia Donahue reflects on a few of the more popular films from this past summer break, along with those less-known.



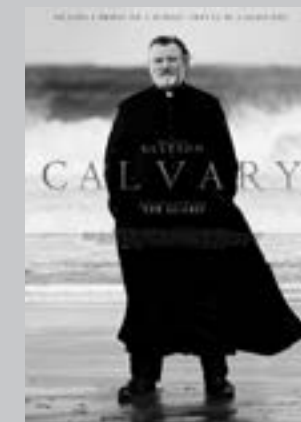
Maleficent

As a modern take on the Disney classic *Sleeping Beauty*, *Maleficent* tells the story of a winged fairy who bravely defends her magical forest against the evil human kingdom. *Maleficent* was praised by *Ms. Magazine* for portraying a strong and complex female lead in a children's movie. Starring Angelina Jolie and Elle Fanning, this movie opened to mixed reviews, but was a summer blockbuster hit.



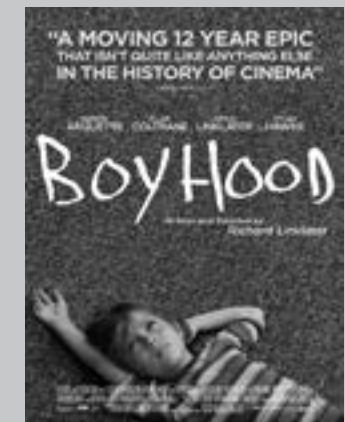
Get on Up

*Get on Up* chronicles the turbulent life of soul music legend James Brown. Produced by Brown's lifehood friend Mick Jagger and starring Octavia Spencer, Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman, this autobiographical drama features all of Brown's biggest hits. Although it garnered positive reviews, many writers criticized it for failing to depict Brown's domestic abuse scandals and drug problems.



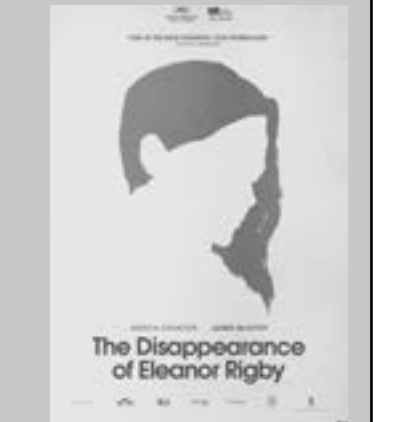
Calvary

Starring Irish star Brendan Gleeson, *Calvary* tells the story of a priest in small-town Ireland who, while hearing a confession, is told that he will be killed in a week. The priest is forced to live his life while wondering who is threatening it. This quirky film chronicles the priest's last week of life, and deals with heavy issues such as depression, regret and religion.



Boyhood

*Boyhood* chronicles the childhood of a boy named Mason from kindergarten to college. This movie is revolutionary in the way it was created, as it was filmed with the same actors over 12 years. Directed by Richard Linklater, who is known for *School of Rock* and *Dazed and Confused*, this movie stars Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette and is loosely based on the director's own childhood.



The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby

*The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby* follows the love story of a New York couple. The film, directed by Ned Benson, is divided into three parts: Them, Him and Her. Them is the collective narrative, with both points of view represented. Him is the love story from the man's point of view and Her is from the woman's point of view. Jessica Chastain and James McAvoy star in this indie drama flick.