

three for one

Theater department opts for one-act plays

Instead of one play with many cast members, the fall play experience turned into three one-act plays.

Jeremy Fitzpatrick, the director, chose three plays because of COVID-19. "I wanted to give as many students the opportunity to perform as possible, but yet adhering to some of the protocols that the district put in place," he said.

The first play had seven members, the second had nine and the third had four. This allowed for social distancing during rehearsals and the performance. If anyone tested positive or was quarantined, fewer people would be affected. Performers wore masks.

The first play, "Eyes Wide Open", chronicled the struggles of a teenage girl with anorexia. The second, "Rainy Night at Lindy's", followed the story of a gambler's last night before he is murdered. "Numbers", the third, was similar to "Mean Girls".

Fitzpatrick used a three-year rotation for the genres of plays he chose: Shakespearean, American Classic and fun, high school-type plays. He tried to keep in mind this was the year for doing the fun, high school play. He based the decision on who he thought would audition. "I wanted to have some different plays that could showcase different talents of our students as well as making sure I had spots for guys and girls."

The smaller casts had advantages. Senior Emma Erdoes described the experience of big versus small cast like learning in a class of 30 versus 10. "It was pretty incredible," she said. "I really enjoyed the intimacy and the time I was able to spend learning about characterization and learning about acting and learning how to work together with my scene partners. It was really, really fun."

Sophomore Grace Tutaj missed the big group atmosphere, but realized with small groups, closer relationships formed. "I've made a little family," she said. "I got to know a few of the freshmen and now we are pretty close. I got to get closer to a few seniors."

Tutaj gained something else from the plays, especially "Eyes Wide Open" about eating disorders. "It's something I can slightly relate to, especially this last quarantine wasn't the time for eating and stuff, so having the play be about anorexia and about how there are so many people trying to help this girl, but she just can't feel it, like doesn't see it. It just hit home."

The plays were held Oct. 30-31, not to a sold out audience, but to a small audience who social distanced and wore masks.



Eyes Wide Open cast

Grace Tutaj, sophomore
Kathryn Fitzpatrick, freshman
Anthony Clay, sophomore
Eduardo Milach Teixeira, senior
Adna Palic, senior
Audrey Allen, freshman
Payton Brown, freshman

Rainy Night at Lindys cast

Jacob Gearhart, senior
Chris Jordan, senior
TJ Olson, senior
Fernando Milach Teixeira, senior
Nic Zimmerman, senior
Sam McDaniel, senior
Nathan Aller, senior
Jay Marren, senior
Emma Jackovin, sophomore

Numbers cast

Emma Erdoes, senior
Kendal Butin, senior
Jenna Curry, senior
Ashley Marsh, senior



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Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

Special Instructions

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Offering a bribe to Abe (senior Chris Jordan), Arnold Rothstein (senior Sam McDaniel) attempts to gain information about a message. Eventually, Abe gave up the information. "A Rainy Night at Lindy's" was the second of three short plays during the fall play performance. Jordan said, "I carried the show." photo by Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Seniors Ashley Marsh and Jenna Curry celebrate a good performance after finishes the last of three one-act plays. The play "Numbers" was similar to "Mean Girls". The mean girl (senior Emma Erdoes) picked on Hettie (Marsh). Jennifer (Curry) was a friend of the mean girl, but switched sides when she fell for Hettie's brother. photo by Becky Curry



Michael (senior Eduardo Milach Teixeira) discusses his concerns about Kristen's health (freshman Audrey Allen) with other dance group members and the teacher. In the short play "Eyes Wide Open", Kristen suffers from an eating disorder. photo by Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Leo (senior Fernando Milach Teixeira) and Clara (senior T] Olson) have a husband-wife scabble about Arnold Rothstein (senior Sam McDaniel) frequenting the delicatessen they own. Clara disapproves of Rothstein as a customer, but Leo likes he brings in business. For the three short performances, parents purchased tickets first and remaining tickets were general admission. photo by Jordyn Cimmiyotti

Enjoying his lobster dinner, Moe (senior Nic Zimmerman) eats at Lindy's Delicatessen. Moe was Arnold Rothstein's (senior Sam McDaniel) bodyguard in "A Rainy Night at Lindy's". The entire play was set at the delicatessen. photo by Jordyn Cimmiyotti

After Kristen (freshman Audrey Allen) faints, her late grandmother (senior Adna Palic) appears as a guardian angel and consoles Kristen. Grandma Birdy appeared to Kristen in her hospital room after Kristen faints because of her eating order. photo by Jordyn Cimmiyotti

design by: Madison Layman
story by: Sam Mills
captions by: Sam Mills

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fall play
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