

THE TRIAL

January hard work pays off with production of 'The Trial'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

three weeks; however, students involved in the production of "The Trial" had an extra week of work before premiering their show.

The students who took this 1-credit practicum worked backstage and acted or stage-managed.

"It's my job to record all the blocking for the shows," said senior Renee Spence, the production's stage manager. "Where everybody goes, what everybody's doing, where all the props are."

Meanwhile, the cast worked on both acting and completing the technical work that went on backstage.

"For this production, the actors served as major contributors to the play's technical work," said Williams. "They worked extremely hard and were probably feeling

a bit tired, but they were clearly having a lot of fun together."

Senior Steven Masschelin, who headed up lights, paint, audio and props, was in charge of assigning the students to needed work.

"The difficult part was that I did not have a very consistent workforce," said Masschelin. "People would be coming and going to and from rehearsal, sometimes staying as little as 45 minutes."

Masschelin also faced challenges with the inexperience of the workers, many of who were new to the theatre and backstage work.

"While anybody can paint a floorboard, it takes a certain kind of person to stand on a rickety ladder and hang a 25-plus-pound instrument," said Masschelin.

Each member of the show was required to spend allotted time either in rehearsals

or doing other work necessary for the production, like box office, costumes or putting together the set.

"The actors were also doing tech work when they weren't called for rehearsal time," said Spence. "I think everyone (in the production) put in an equal amount of work."

Most of the students were in rehearsal from 10 a.m. to 5, 6 or 6:30 p.m. Including a lunch break, that was at least seven hours a day — not counting time spent working individually.

"The production schedule is more like what you'd find in a professional theatre," said Williams. "Normally, our students have to find a way to attend rehearsal and meet production deadlines while juggling their normal academic coursework. ... It's been great to see how many students really thrived in this intensely concentrated environment."

"I didn't know what to expect from this project, but the end result was everything we could have hoped for," said junior Connor Bayne. "One problem with the schedule, though, was that there was little time available for publicity, so we didn't sell as well as we hoped."

Though opening a show in the beginning of the semester presented unique challenges, those who saw the show found it intriguing.

"I'm still confused, but it's an intriguing story," said Spence. "I enjoyed going to see it every night."

"Kafka creates a bizarre, fantastical world in which examining these issues and creating that world has been my focus for this production," said Williams. "'The Trial' is probably the reason why Kafka earned his own adjective, 'I wanted to find out what a theatrical version (of) 'Kafkaesque' might feel like.'"

Williams explored that theme with a minimalist set where the actors often doubled as props. Throughout the show, the actors seemed to be caught in — or



PHOTOS BY KACEY MINNICK/GUILFORDIAN

(Above) Joseph K., portrayed by first-year **Henry Coates**, struggles during his quest for acquittal. (Left) The cast rides a train which represents Joseph's journey. The play ran for one weekend, Jan. 31–Feb. 2.

even become — machines.

Even though J-Term and "The Trial" are completed, we can still look forward to the Theatre Studies department's next production, "Spring Awakening."



The good, the bad and the ugly: what happened over J-Term?

BY BRITTANY MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

As I wait in line at the Grill to place my order, I am bombarded with familiar faces and quickly find myself invested in several conversations all starting off with the same question, "How was your break?"

Whether you spent J-Term studying abroad, relaxing on the couch at home, playing a sport, or taking a course here on campus, memories were made and shared.

Director of the Friends Center Max Carter spent his J-Term in Palestine and Israel. The trip consisted of visiting holy sites, volunteering and facing a five-day snowstorm in Jerusalem.

"The trip was incredible," said Carter. "I had high hopes for it, and it exceeded my expectations."

"When plans didn't go the way we had anticipated, the backup plans were just as good."

Guilford's pilot J-Term was a success in terms of enrollment (176 students), content (62 different experiences) and faculty/staff involvement (39). The many different experiences offered for J-Term included independent studies, internships and study abroad programs.

"I did J-Term because it gave me an opportunity to travel.

I went to Cuba where I took classes on peace and conflict and did charity work in various homes and churches," said sophomore James O'Neil. "I will definitely attend next year."

"Woodworking with Jim Hood was awesome, and I would definitely do it again," said senior Taylor Teodosio. "It's a great way to get an extra four credits without it being too long."

As successful as many people thought J-Term was, there were several people that weren't big fans. Several complaints consisted of bad weather, limited food and the feeling of loneliness on campus.

"I was pissed at the fact that this year there weren't any classes that went towards a general education requirement," said sophomore Skylor Bee-Latty. "I understand that this was their first year testing things out for J-Term, but I didn't like how limited we were to grill food."

Sophomore Richard Adamson spent J-Term volunteering through Guilford at the Interactive Resource Center, a day center for homeless individuals.

Even though he had a great time sharing stories and eating dinner with his group and people from the day center, there were several things Adamson didn't like about the program.

"The Guilford program was disorganized," said Adamson. "If it wasn't for the students in the group taking initiative, I

don't think half the things we did would have happened. I would like to do it next year, but I think I would do it on my own and not through the Guilford program."

To offer the many different J-Term experiences, a lot of preparation and hard work went into making this pilot term a success. It forced several changes to course schedules, graduation dates and the academic calendar. An important thing that faculty and staff kept in mind was the safety of students.

"There was a safety issue that we were cautious about because it is scary to be in your dorm alone," said Dean of Students Aaron Fetrow. "We did keep in mind students feeling isolated or lonely."

Planning has already started for next January and the goals have been set high.

"Our priorities include reducing the cost for students, improving and further supporting faculty during the proposal process, offering additional on-campus seminars and courses, and streamlining the registration process," said Assistant to the President for Planning and Management Jeff Favolise in an email interview.

Students are optimistic that the administration and faculty will indeed work to make J-Term an even more rewarding experience in the future.