

RUMORS

'Rumors' theatre production all depends on timing

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She continued, "People don't 'fast' — that's not a thing we do ... The 'what if' results in speed."

"Part of the challenge of doing a farce is that it's tempting to just play tempo, where it's all very fast-paced, and not be specific about motivation," said senior Kelly Rose Cope, playing Cookie Cusack. "You have to have all your motivations and your intentions very, very clear in your mind so it's not just high school kids running around slamming doors."

The effect of "Rumors" is all in the timing.

"(Farce) involves near misses," said Williams. "A lot of rehearsal has been spent choreographing those near misses."

Choreography remains essential in the physical comedy which abounds throughout the show.

"We've had to work a lot on making sure that the injuries are genuine but still funny, so no one believes someone's actually injured," Williams said.

"We first had (my character) doing a somersault over the couch, which looked funny, but I was at risk of kicking another actor in the face," said senior Lily Ozer, playing Chris Gorman.

This kind of action can only be perfected when rehearsing on the set, and as with the play itself, timing is of utmost importance.

"We got on the set earlier than previous productions, which was really beneficial for this show," Ozer said. "Since we have the staircase, which a lot of actors have to run up and down frantically during the production, having a real staircase instead of something just taped down on the floor was really nice for us."

While "Rumors" is very physical, the wit and satire of Simon's script drives the show.

"There's so many zingers in this show," said Ozer. "They pop up everywhere. Every character gets a chance to say a couple zingers."

The cast of characters compose a jumbled caricature of metropolitan upper crust.

"Most people don't think of themselves as a bad person," said Moreno. "Then there's Claire walking into the room going, 'I am the queen of the raging bitches, and I know it, and you know it and that's why you respect me.'"

Visiting Instructor of Theatre Studies Robin Vest constructed a swanky set matching the elitist airs assumed by the characters.

"The tricky thing is that there (are) four doors that have to be used and one door that's not really used but needs to be there, and how to do that in a simple way without ending up with this huge, massive set that a: we couldn't really afford, and b: isn't really that interesting," said Vest.



KAREN LAMBERT / GUILFORDIAN

"By finding an irregular shape (for the set), tilting this and angling things, she's really been able to allow for this play to work in our space," said Williams. "She's created a world that gives the illusion of money on our limited budget."

That illusion holds paramount importance in "Rumors": the characters' lives revolve around status and wealth.

"Farce presents us with a world that's opulent, that seems magnificently wealthy, powerful, prestigious, and shows that fantasy is really a myth," said Williams.

"You think you're watching a comedy, but really, you're watching a commentary on upper-class society and how ridiculous their lives are," said Cope.

Still, "Rumors" is a comedy, hilarious even to the cast.

"I know I personally was crying with laughter by the end of the first three rehearsals," said Perez-Leahy.

"Regardless of whether or not you consider yourself a 'theatre person' or like going to plays, this is funny, and you will laugh," Cope said.

But maybe you should not take her word for it — rumor has it Cope is also the play's publicist.

"There's something in it for everybody," said Cope. "If you like physical comedy, if you like character-based jokes, if you like witty one-liners, it's all there."

TICKETS: \$5
AVAILABLE ONLINE OR
AT THE DOOR ONE HOUR
BEFORE PERFORMANCE

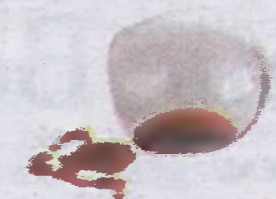
SHOWTIMES:

NOV. 1-2

NOV. 7-9

**SHOWS START
AT 8:00 P.M. IN
STERNBERGER
AUDITORIUM**

RUMORS
a farce by Neil
Simon



Reminder: please don't use cell phones or flash photography during performance. Enjoy the show!

Alumna Tara Alan bikes across Europe, writes book

BY RENEE DEHART
STAFF WRITER

Many people have a dream of traveling the world after college with a close group of friends, meeting new people, trying exotic food and having unbelievable experiences.

Few people actually follow through on this dream, and one of those few is Guilford College's own Tara Alan '06.

In 2008, Tara and her now-husband Tyler Kellen began a bicycle tour across Europe, Africa and Asia, and detailed their experiences with journal entries and photographs in their blog, goingslowly.com. Their journey also inspired Tara to write "Bike. Camp. Cook," a camp cookbook coming out this December.

"Romania was a great country to visit," said Alan. "It felt so wild and far away

from home, like going back in time with gypsy people and wagons. It was like a fairytale."

Alan also attended the annual French festival "Chalon dans la Rue," which celebrates urban artists.

"Through crowded hippie markets we walked, past racks of colorful, patchouli-smelling genie pants and pot paraphernalia," said Alan on her blog. "On every street corner and in every 'place' or square, there was some form of entertainment."

Kellen came up with the idea to tour the world on bicycles, and after Alan agreed, their two-year journey began in Scotland.

"Tara has always liked other cultures and food from other cultures," said Mark Alan, Tara's father, in a telephone interview.

The idea of their daughter setting off on

a bicycle journey across three continents did not settle well with her mother initially.

"At first I was really surprised and nervous; it was really foreign to me," said Tara's mother, Lisa Alan, in a telephone interview. "They were really great though and showed us how others did it. Then I was excited about it."

For Alan, however, traveling is not new.

Before she came to Guilford, she worked as a nanny in France and, in 2004, joined Guilford's study abroad program in London.

"Guilford's curriculum allowed Tara to explore a variety of courses, giving her the freedom to learn what was important to her," said Professor of English Jim Hood, Alan's advisor and mentor during her years at Guilford. "That seems to me a precious gift the institution gave to her."

Alan agreed the environment at Guilford

did make a difference for her.

"The college helps you become more open by encouraging group discussions and spreading goodwill," said Alan in a telephone interview. "After graduating you're able to carry a sense of community with you."

It was in Italy where Alan decided to write a book based on their experiences; cooking seemed like a natural choice for her.

"She has always loved to cook, since she was a little girl, and I have always encouraged it," said Lisa.

"She was writing the book at the same time she was writing for the blog and working on building a house," said Mark.

Alan's book "Bike. Camp. Cook." is currently available for pre-order from their blog goingslowly.com and will be in print by Christmas 2013.