

# Arts & Entertainment

## Review: *Ms. Courageous*

By Rebecca Dowdy, Opinion Editor

*Ms. Courageous* opened last week to the unassuming but powerful sound of isolating radium. The production was held in the studio theater, tucked in an obscure hallway of Jones Hall and ran from last Thursday, Sept. 20, to this past Sunday, Sept. 23. The production tells the stories of Elizabeth Blackwell and Marie Curie, two female pioneers in science, and how they progressed in their respective fields despite the discrimination they faced. *Ms. Courageous* was a surprisingly sweet and uplifting production. It was perhaps a few dramatic monologues short of cheesy, but overall a fun, educational experience.

The studio theatre that housed the production was small and intimate, with seats surrounding the entirety of the stage. It made the viewer feel like they were sitting right on top of the actors, making their performances feel clear and nuanced in a way one usually doesn't get to experience. The staging of the studio theater also allowed for some interesting blocking choices, with actors weaving in between audience members, freely moving in organic ways, and playing with rhythm and tempo of line deliveries.

The acting itself was clear and competent; the performance of Laura Austin, who played

Elizabeth Blackwell, was particularly enjoyable as she played her character with equal parts tragedy and relentless determination. The actors' performances, however, were held back by some sections of stiff exposition, but they worked through them admirably. There were many interesting parallels between the lives of Marie Curie and Elizabeth Blackwell, but the two narratives felt oddly disjointed and the play itself might have been more effective if more had been done to interweave their stories together.

Georgia Kimbell '19, was required to attend for a class but ended up enjoying the production

nonetheless. She mentioned that on the first night of the show, there was a panel of Meredith science professors talking about their experiences. Kimbell heard that it was an interesting talk but was unable to take part in it herself.

Overall, an afternoon watching *Ms. Courageous* was one well spent. It was enjoyable to learn about the lives of these two women and watching their stories unfold on stage. It's a nice addition to this year's theme of "women warriors," and it is certainly a much needed boost of inspiration as midterms loom over the campus.

## Fast Fashion at Gaddy-Hamrick

By Hannah Flood, Staff Writer

The Weems Gallery at Gaddy-Hamrick has welcomed a new exhibit by Joyce Watkins King called *Fast Fashion Fiasco: The High Cost of Cheap*. The exhibit features original sculptures and installations inspired by the phenomenon of "fast fashion", designed to promote reflection and discussion on personal levels of consumerism. Fast fashion is known in the industry as the process of quickly moving ideas and trends from Fashion Week runways into stores every spring and fall. H&M, Zara and Forever 21 are some of the most popular fast fashion retailers today.

Sixteen pieces are on display as part of the exhibit, each focusing on a specific result of fast fashion, from the impact clothing makes in landfills to the effects of dye pollution in water sources. To accompany her exhibit, King has compiled a fact sheet with more in depth information about the serious economical, environmental, and humanitarian issues resulting from fast fashion.

The exhibit opened on Sept. 4 and will continue through Oct. 2,

open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

An artist reception will take place on Sept. 27 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with a gallery talk beginning at 5:30 p.m.

To accompany the art exhibit at the reception, Meredith Dance Theatre and the dance department are orchestrating a live interactive dance piece, choreographed and directed by Amelia Bryant, '20. Complete with an informative sound score, dancers will represent how "consumer america is wasteful with clothes and we don't wear things long enough for them to wear out before we throw them away," Bryant said. She hopes the piece will serve as a worthy accompaniment to King's powerful works of art.

More information on Joyce Watkins King is available at her website, [www.jwkingart.com](http://www.jwkingart.com). Seven of the installations on display in Weems Gallery are for sale. Please direct inquiries to [gallery@meredith.edu](mailto:gallery@meredith.edu).



## Review: *Searching*

By Kathleen Daly, Staff Writer

Anesh Chaganty's *Searching* is an outstanding thriller mystery movie which uses the unconventional presentation of showing the story through a computer screen. With its realistic portrayal of the internet and its great directing, the movie puts you in the shoes of the main character, a father named David Kim (John Cho), whose high school daughter, Margot (Michelle La), has recently gone missing. Teamed with an investigator, Detective Vick (Debra Messing), he searches his daughter's laptop to find clues as to why she disappeared and where she might be.

Unlike most films that present their stories through a

computer screen, *Searching* does not use the computer screen as an excuse for lazy presentation, but rather uses classic cinematography tricks like a slow zoom and focusing a specific part of the screen to build tension and add details to the story. Like most people do on their computers, David also multi-tasks on his computer to add as much information as possible in the scene without it being overwhelming. For example, he searches up Detective Vick's background on Google when he is talking to her on the phone for the first time. This is not to say that everything on screen entirely related to the plot; a few unrelated tabs were on the computer screen just to make it feel more natural.

Another problem that *Searching* avoids is making the internet and the people unrealistic. David has the knowledge that you would expect a father would have about the internet. He has no idea what Tumblr is when it is brought up in the film and he misspells it when he searches for it. However, he uses Google Spreadsheets like a professional and has no trouble getting into his daughter's locked accounts.

The movie also doesn't make the internet seem like an extremely evil place. His daughter's classmates and the people on the internet act like those one would expect to come across online. For example, the film depicts a You-

Tube video of David overreacting at someone and, rather than all comments being against him, a couple of the comments were sympathetic towards David.

Overall, the film was a delightful subversion of what movies about the internet have become. It was realistic and built tension with its great presentation. Hopefully, more films about the internet will strive to be as creative as *Searching*.