

Push/Pull, an astounding performance

BY: MARCY PEDZWATER

NCSSM's fall play Push/Pull, written and performed by students at NCSSM premiered the weekend of Oct. 19-21.

When I first heard about the concept for Push/Pull, I was a bit skeptical at first. Sure, the idea sounded great, but would Science and Math students actually have the time to coordinate such a production, and moreover, to do it well?

My anxiety and nervousness for my fellow classmates only increased when I heard my friends in the play talking about nonsensical lines from the play such as, "Wait! Don't eat that mushroom!"

However, within the first five minutes of the play, my doubts were quelled. Push/Pull was an astounding

performance that brought brilliant writing, amazing tech work, and phenomenal acting together seamlessly.

Push/Pull made remarkable observations about human nature, the relations between success and failure, reality and expectations, and love and relationships.

The play was beautifully performed and part of the power of the performance was not just in what was said, but was shown through the actions and movements of the piece.

Push/Pull captured little bits of truth in an artistic manner; there were times when I couldn't help but nod along, thinking to myself "That's so true!"

Of course, it wasn't all serious; there were well-

placed moments of comic relief, perhaps most notably a chemistry joke about significant figures.

It was the serious moments, however, that defined the play. Perhaps the most powerful scene in the play was "Prayer,"

which left a lasting impression on the audience.

Push/Pull seemed to leave more questions unanswered than answered, but did so in a way that made it seem like it wouldn't have made sense to do it any other way.

Overall, Push/Pull was a remarkable success for NCSSM theater.

A Original Drama Based on Success and Failure

Push Pull

Friday, October 19th at 7pm Saturday, October 20th at 7pm Sunday, October 21st at 3pm

ETC Auditorium
Admission is FREE

Freelance Whales, Mumford and Sons, Jason Aldean reviewed

BY: MARCY PEDZWATER

This fall, the indie band Freelance Whales, folk rock band Mumford and Sons, and country artist Jason Aldean released new albums. Freelance Whales' album, Diluvia, was released on Oct. 9, 2012.

Mumford and Sons' new album, Babel, was released on Sept. 24, 2012. Jason Aldean's new album, Night Train, was released on Oct. 16, 2012.

Diluvia

Freelance Whales' new album Diluvia is utterly unremarkable. It had no huge flaws, the music flowed well, it was calming to listen to, but nothing stood out about the album. Each song transitioned to the next without any distinguishing characteristics.

The lyrics were okay, but they weren't great and there certainly wasn't anything quotable from them. The album might make good background music, but it's certainly not something that I would seek out and listen to over and over again.

The album wasn't bad; I didn't cringe when I listened to it and there wasn't anything that I didn't care for.

The problem with the album was that there was nothing to set it out from all of the other new albums that have been released in the past month.

There were no stellar harmonies, breathtaking melodies, moving lyrics, or jaw-dropping instrumentals to make the album stand out. Based on Diluvia, it's hard to envision Freelance Whales gaining much traction in the music industry, and for good reason. 2.5/5 stars

Babel

Mumford and Sons' most recent release was impressive. The unique style of Mumford and Sons continues to stand out in their third album.

Their vocals are distinctive and alluring, with harmonies that are used sparingly, making their impact that much greater when the harmonies are used.

The instrumentation is impressive, with heavy use of banjo, giving the band a distinctive sound. The opening song, "Babel" showcases the band's talents, and completes the song with great lyrics.

The biggest downfall of the album, however, was

wouldn't even realize it.

The album had two styles, the song with an upbeat tempo with heavy banjo strumming, and the song that started slow, but, once it reached the chorus, returned to the upbeat tempo of the songs before it.

The only exception to this pattern was

remarkable album, they must introduce more differentiation between their songs. 3.5/5 stars

Night Train

Jason Aldean's new album was fair. The vocals of the album were phenomenal;

Aldean has a great voice for country and his album showcased this. The album had strong variation, between slower songs like "I Don't do Lonely Well" and faster paced songs like "This Nothin' Town."

One of the standout songs from the album was definitely "Talk," with its smooth melody, and flowing instrumentation. The song was dynamic, and the transition from a slow tempo at the beginning to a steadier tempo towards the chorus was impressive.

The beginning of the album was pretty unimpressive, but the later tracks began to grow on me. The first few songs lacked any remarkable characteristics, but as the album went on, the songs improved tremendously, deviating from somewhat stereotypical country music to a sound that seemed more authentic and unique to Aldean. Overall, the album was a success, but could have used more fine-tuning. 3/5 stars

"Ghosts That We Knew," which was perhaps one of the best songs from the album. The song seemed more raw, and deviated from the pop music mold of the rest of the album.

Hearing the band use a lighter style of banjo that supported the vocals rather than carrying them was a refreshing and necessary change of pace. Mumford and Sons clearly has great talent, but to produce a truly

its lack of variation. Each song sounded like the song before it, and at times when I was listening to the album, the song would change, and I

SG teams address student issues

BY SARAH LEE

Student Government. Every school has it. Every one of them plans Halloween dances and or Valentine candy grams. But how often do you see SG making a real difference, a change that can significantly affect your time at school?

The Student Government Association at NCSSM begs to differ. As one of the most engaging and active student organizations on campus, SG serves to represent the student body by working with the administration to make practical changes in students' academic and residential life.

Academic Affairs works with Academic Programs to bring positive changes to the learning environment.

Currently, the committee is focusing on improving Grade Transparency and scheduling process. To be a part of the committee or for comments and concerns regarding academic life, contact the Committee Chair, Siddarth Modi at modi13s@ncssm.edu.

Programming Committee plans student activities and events on campus including Mr. Unicorn, seasonal lock-ins, spirit week, Powderpuff games, Senior Breakfast, College App Day and the list goes on.

In addition, Programming also appoints the mascot, Charlie the Unicorn. The committee is led by Natalie Ung who can be contacted via email at ung13n@ncssm.edu.

Public Relations works to improve communication between Student Government and the Student Body.

The PR committee organizes weekly Let's Talk on Mondays during common lunch in which students can stop by to speak to an SG representative. In addition, the PR Task Force consists of students that specialize in computer graphics, designing, and writing to further aid in promotion of SG and SG-related events. Please Contact

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