

BC Theatre: 'Our Town' shines in examination of life and death

By Jordon Morgan
Editor in Chief

Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play comes to life courtesy of Brevard College's theatre department, and it shines as a metatheatrical look on the meaning of life and the acceptance of death.

Set in the fictional town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire in 1901, "Our Town" is introduced by a character simply known as the Stage Manager (played by junior Theatre Performance major Sarah Haga) who introduces the audience to the small town with other characters like Professor Willard (junior Derrick Hill) explaining the history of the town.

Joe Crowell (Eliza Hislop, a fifth grader at Brevard Academy) delivers papers to Doc Gibbs (junior Theatre and WLEE major John Pate), Howie Newsome (freshman Theatre and Music Performance Major K'niqie Eichelberger) delivers the milk, and Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb (Lily Bartleson and Faith Alexander, respectively) go about their daily lives while discussing dreams, their children, and local town gossip.

What makes "Our Town" work so well is in part due to the series of direct addresses to the audience by many of the characters, primarily the Stage Manager. They are strange to get used to at first, but eventually they become efficient devices to be used in order to explain all the quaint features of the town of Grover's Corners.

For example, the Stage Manager explains in the beginning that the Town Hall and Post Office are located in the same building, with the jail in the basement, along with a relatively small population of 2,642 people.

These direct addresses are also quite humorous as they showcase the range of the characters' personalities and mannerisms, especially if the audience laughs with them to further the joke.

Despite these comedic moments, "Our Town" is ultimately an introspective drama, and it is a powerful one at that. It presents hard questions and analyses on the meaning of life, cherishing every precious moment you have, and how even the most simple and seemingly unimportant of memories can cause anguish when you lose someone dear to you.

Surrounding that is a heartwarming love story that showcases great chemistry between Emma

Sergent and Anthony Zuniga, who play Emily Webb and George Gibbs. Even though the actors, and the characters subsequently, don't have much stage time together compared to the whole play, they manage to tell a tale of a romance with awkward but sweet banter, punctuated by a script that makes the dialogue seem like natural back and forth conversations.

Sergent deserves a special mention as she did an excellent job playing Emily Webb. Her character's arc of a slightly stuck up but sweet and conflicted woman is done so efficiently that it comes across better than in some big budget Hollywood "romances," if you can even call them that.

The greatest strength of "Our Town" is its ability to cause deep, reflective questioning of one's self, making you wonder why you trouble yourself with all of the little unfortunate things instead of spending time with people you love.

Life can turn upside down in the span of a millisecond, and it's something that is all too easy to forget. "Our Town" reminds you of that in a powerful way. It's a story of one's realization of their mortality, and one that should absolutely be experienced.

BC Volleyball team continues to kill

By Jon Cole
Sports Information Director

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Brevard College volleyball player Rachel Ruble finished with a match-high nine kills, while the trio of Hannah Elmore, Stephanie Lambert and Whitney DeMoss added seven apiece, to help a well-balanced Brevard lineup to its third sweep of the season and fourth win in a row, by downing Berea 25-13, 25-22 and 25-9 in Saturday afternoon action at Huntingdon University.

The second match of the tri-match, between the Tornados and host Huntingdon, was not completed due to a power outage that blanketed the campus. The decision of match, which was halted with Huntingdon leading by two sets and a 9-8 margin in the third frame, will be made in

the future by USA South Conference officials.

Brevard picked up its sixth victory of the season after driving home 38 kills in 104 attempts, posting a .211 attack percentage. The Tornado offense was led by Josie McElroy's 29 kills, while Maggie Weiss put together a 28-dig effort that highlighted the Tornados' back row defense. She was joined among top defenders by DeMoss and Ruble, who added three blocks apiece, to hold Berea (2-9) to a -.069 attack percentage.

Leading 2-0 heading into the decisive set, Brevard converted four kills in its first eight points to grab an 8-2 advantage. Seven unforced Berea errors, coupled with three kills by Ruble, allowed the Tornados to stretch the lead to 18-7 and force a second timeout.

Kristen Rathbun put the Tornados over 20 points with a series of service aces as Berea's

offense was out of sync. Slams by Ruble and Lambert along with a pair of unforced Mountaineer errors helped Brevard complete the sweep by a 16-point margin.

The two teams traded the first 18 points of the second set, battling through four ties to reach a nine-all deadlock on an attack error by Berea's Megan Voorhees. That mistake opened the door for the Tornados to score four of the next five points, including a kill by Ruble and a service ace from Lambert, as they moved in front 13-10.

A Berea timeout allowed them to refocus and piece together a 5-2 run, deadlocking the game at 15. Rathbun stepped into serve, recording three straight aces, as the Tornados took a three-point lead (21-18) to force the second Berea timeout. The Mountaineers trimmed the margin to one,

See 'Volleyball' on page 8