

BC Theatre stuns audiences with post-apocalyptic play

By Margaret Correll
Layout & Design

“Look out for that separation of characters,” cast member Anthony Zuniga said. “See how the story evolves with not just the play, but with the story the actors are telling.” Zuniga refers to the long-awaited, three-act play “Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play,” written by Anne Washburn and directed by Patrice Foster.

Brevard College Theatre worked long hours to prepare for this play, having to delve into a dark and rustic side of themselves. There was a lot of excitement during the final dress rehearsal when Foster, Zuniga and cast member, Lisa Arrona offered up some insight into the play on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, the night before the opening performance.

“I would say the rehearsing has been very immersive, we have done some really good world-building with this play and... I don't

know, it's like stepping into another dimension,” said Arrona when talking about the rehearsal process. Zuniga agreed, adding, “You have to be able to separate yourself from each of the roles, there's three distinct acts and each act you are playing a distinct character.”

Arrona and Zuniga offered a lot of first-hand experience which was intriguing yet vague, not wanting to give any important details away before the show. The two spoke about their characters with understanding and empathy. “It's really fun finding new parts of me in her and finding new parts of her in me,” Arrona said about her role in the play.

While Arrona and Zuniga were sharing some of their experiences during rehearsal and production, Foster joined to offer a different perspective on the entire process. “It's been a challenging process, it's a very big play. It's a three act play and I'm new here so I don't know

how things go or protocol, this was a very big play to choose as a first play to do,” Foster said.

Arrona and Zuniga seemed to agree with Foster. “Enjoyable, yet challenging,” Foster said.

The unpredictability of the play was a favorite of the cast and crew as well with Foster stating, “There's no one that can come and watch this play and predict what is going to happen next.”

The three hoped that the hard work and effort would be recognized by the audience. Noticing the separation between the acts was their final wish to readers of the Clarion. They hoped that everyone attending would enjoy and leave the theater thinking that they had witnessed something extraordinary.

“Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play” debuted on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Morrison Playhouse in the Porter Center. The showtimes ran at 7 p.m. through Saturday with the final performance on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

The Friday night showing was sold out with many people waitlisted and only a couple of empty chairs in the theater. Many friendly faces were in the audience that night, including President David Joyce and Lynne Joyce, members of the Brevard College faculty and several recent BC alumni.

The cast showed stellar acting skills and showed many experienced faces and some new ones. The cast included K'niqie Eichelberger, Lisa Arrona, Claudia Dahlman, Talley Sugg, Anthony Zuniga, Clara Reichhard, Sydney Windham, Sallie Marie Watson, Rose Bricker and Jannie Kurtz.

Act One opened with several of the characters sitting around a fire, trying to remember the contents of a specific episode from the almost forgotten TV show, “The Simpsons.” They go on for several minutes trying to dig deep into their brains to uncover the contents of the season five episode “Cape Feare.”



Courtesy of Instagram

Brevard College Theatre presents 'Mr. Burns' on stage at the Porter Center