

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Drama Preview:

'A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine'

by Jonathan Martin
arts & entertainment editor

Since his arrival at Gardner-Webb, director Keith Cassidy has done much to enhance the quality of the Gardner-Webb stage: putting on highly successful shows such as "You Can't Take It With You," "Oliver," "The Miracle Worker" and last semester's farce "See How They Run."

With the production of the acclaimed musical "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine," Cassidy has pulled top talent from Gardner-Webb as well as Shelby Community Theater to produce possibly one of the funniest productions ever to hit the Dover Theater stage.

Though the musical requires a large cast, Cassidy had no problems finding a

talented ensemble cast. "This was one of the best turnouts I've seen at Gardner-Webb," Cassidy said.

The cast shares Cassidy's enthusiasm for the upcoming production. "People who aren't familiar with the play need to know up front that they are not coming in to anything heavy duty or serious," says second year stage veteran Delaine Deer. "The show is lighthearted, fun, and should hopefully be a great night of laughs."

The first act, "A Day in Hollywood," is essentially a musical. This hilarious take off of life in Hollywood is full of great songs and dance, featuring Delaine Deer, Ashley Sims, Linda Strachan, Elizabeth Allen, Denise Deaton, Kelly Evans, Brooke Cody, Charlene Cobb, Lori

Moore, Tara Neely, Jerry Bumbaugh, Gordon Penarvis, Neil Velez, Matt Tashjian, Michael Brooks and Stan Logan.

The second act, "A Night in the Ukraine," is set as a Marx Brothers movie. Jim Farrell stars as Groucho, Kathy Tomlinson is Harpo, and GWU stage veteran Christopher Green as Chico. Also featured is Sean Whitworth, along with newcomers Christina Whitehouse, Cheryl Chinn and Mary Lopez.

"A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine" opens on Feb. 19 and runs through Feb. 23. All show times are at 8:00 except for Sunday, which will be a 2:30 matinee performance. Admission to Gardner-Webb students is free.

British invasion:
Old band, new hits

a review by Jenny Rogers
editor

Thank goodness Britain is producing something other than the Spice Girls. And some Americans are smart enough to catch on with the newest release of long-time Brit-band Echo & the Bunnymen, "Evergreen."

Don't be surprised if you've never heard of them. "The Bunny what?" you're probably thinking. They're not modern pop "Top 40" material, and they're not as well known among American Generation-X newcomers.

But Echo has been around (and is still producing great music) long enough to put most bands to shame.

Ian McCullough, who has fronted the best-selling band for years and done his own solo work, continues to lend his trademark, honey-sweet vocals to Echo's newest album, "Evergreen."

The album, which is a curious mix of mellow and melancholy tunes, is much more clean and polished than Echo's previous releases.

Long-time Echo fans will be happy to hear the same old spirit intact, but with a surprising new sparkle.

Although it still retains the deep, earthy sounds of Brit-pop that has brought the band in and out of a variety of musical phases, "Evergreen" boasts a newer, clean-cut sound. No sloppy reverb or shrill, whining guitar on this one.

While most bands are splintering smooth edges, "Evergreen" shines with gentle ballads and soulful, powerfully-driven rock like sunny "Don't Let It Get You Down" and mournful "Forgiven" and "Too Young To Kneel."

Looks like Britain has made a step toward redeeming itself musically.

Local Christian band *Dirt Poor Authority* performed Saturday, Jan. 31 for *The Bottom Shelf* in the DCC.

The band, which consists of members (left to right) Eric McMurray, Matt Watson, Brooks Derrick, Thomas Fitzpatrick and James Corbin, formed in May 1997 and has been producing rollicking roots-rock ever since.

Dirt Poor Authority sports a rhythmic, folk-funk sound with rootsy mountain influences, reminiscent of several of the members' homeplaces.

"We do it for Jesus," said Corbin, lead vocalist. "It's so freeing.... We have a blast, and we really love doing it."



photo courtesy of James Corbin

'Good Will Hunting' is a ride worth waiting for

by Randy Capps
sports editor

It's been said that there is a fine line between genius and insanity.

"Good Will Hunting" is the story of one man who spends his life blurring that line.

Matt Damon stars as Will Hunting, an orphan from Boston who works as a janitor at M.I.T. and just so happens to possess a photographic memory and a brilliant mind.

Unfortunately, he also carries the bad memories of terrible neglect and abuse as a child in foster homes.

Despite all of this, it is clear early on that Will belongs here as a student, and not the guy who cleans the floors.

Professor Lambeau, played by Stellan Skarsgard, offers a prize to any student who can solve a difficult mathmatic

proof. Will solves it easily, catching the attention of Lambeau.

So when Will's temper lands him in jail, Lambeau manages to get him off with probation. One of the conditions of this probation is that he undergo counseling.

That's where Sean McGwire comes in. Sean (Robin Williams) was Lambeau's college roommate and is now a gifted therapist.

He tries to help Will escape the ghosts of his past, and Will returns the favor by helping Sean get over the death of his wife.

If Will knows it all, then Sean has seen it.

In one scene, Sean says to Will: "If I asked you about love, you'd probably quote me a sonnet. But you've never waken up next to a woman and been truly happy."

There's a candidate, though. Skylar, played by Minnie Driver, is a Harvard student who falls for Will. However, Will is terrified of loving and being loved in return.

There's a tear-jerking scene in which Skylar asks Will to tell her he doesn't love her.

Will lies and says he doesn't. It's only through helping Sean live without his wife, that Will learns the importance of love.

And through Chuckie (Ben Affleck), his best friend, he learns that making a life for himself is not betraying his friends.

He tells Will, "If you're still here messing around with us in twenty years, then it's an insult. It's an insult to us and yourself. You're better than this, Will."

And this movie is better than you think. I know the ending is about as predict-

able as tomorrow's sunrise, but it's the ride that makes this movie still worth seeing.

The screenplay, written by Affleck and Damon—real-life best friends, is thoughtful and extremely well-written.

Because they grew up together as good friends in their hometown of Boston, the fact that the script is both honest and fresh is not surprising.

The acting is solid as well. Damon, Affleck and Driver are all young actors with loads of talent, and Robin Williams proves that he is much more than just a stand-up comic with a commanding and dramatic performance.

This film is more than just another boy-makes-good story.

It's an intriguing tale of a man's quest to slay the demons of his past so that he can face his future.

It's the best six dollars I've ever spent..