

# "Oklahoma!" cast members take the stage tonight

## Jen Avery and Troy Pittman share past experiences

**Eric R. Satter**  
Reporter

Senior Jennifer Avery never sang before coming to Elon College, but now has the lead role in the Western musical "Oklahoma!"

"I never sang before when I came to Elon, but I have danced a lot," Avery said.

After auditioning for "Fiddler on the Roof" as a freshman Avery decided to take voice lessons with Catherine McNeela, director of Elon. McNeela "just taught me and molded me as a singer and an actress."

National Association of Teachers of Singing, which had built up her confidence and made her work harder. She then appeared in "Crimes of The Heart" where she met Troy Pittman and other people who are starring in "Oklahoma!" this year.

"My senior year was another test for me, because of Director Paul Kerr...who I've enjoyed working with very much," Avery said. "Paul is very objective and I was very nervous because he didn't really know what I could do and that I was against a lot of talented people. "Audition cuts for "Oklahoma!" ran very close to a 100



Jen Avery

people and it was very intense. I did not know who was to going have the lead female role, because Paul took the auditions in a totally new direction," Avery said. "At call-backs I was

just petrified, because the auditions could have gone several ways and I'm very, very honored for being given the lead female role because I know that the caliber of the whole chorus of women is strong."

Avery wants to get a master of fine arts in music theatre and eventually teach at a university and get a job very similar to Rosemary Howard's choreographing job which involves singing, dancing and acting.

"The more I learn, the more I realized that I will never know everything and it's going to take years before I know enough to start molding other people. The stronger I've grown, the more humble I've become..." Avery said.

Avery won an award with the

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Sophomore Troy Pittman will once again take the stage as a lead cast member in an Elon College production.

Tonight Pittman will portray the swaggering cowboy in the musical production of "Oklahoma!"

Pittman has been a part of drama theatre for nine years with his first appearance in a musical review called "Beautiful City" at age 10. During high school, he has been in close to 30 plays which include "The Music Man," "Our



Troy Pittman

Town," "South Pacific" and one community play.

"The high school I came from in Fairfax, Va. wasn't mainly for the performing arts, but the department was so big that it felt as if everyone was in-

involved. There was a lot of training that I had in high school that helped me when I got to Elon last year," Pittman said.

"I was excited coming in as a freshman and realizing that in just the first week of school that I got a lead role in a musical and got into Elon and it was just amazing—like I couldn't believe that all of this was happening."

Although Pittman is in his second year at Elon, he is registered as a junior since he takes about 20 credit hours per semester.

"The reason why I want to graduate next year is because I want to be part of a major drama program at the University of Virginia to get a MFA (master of fine arts),

also the graduate schools will only accept people every three years and if I graduated the year I'm supposed to—I would have missed the program by a year—and the odds I'm up against to get into the program at the University of Virginia is eight men to the rest of the world."

Troy said he is actually saving his parents \$12,000 by overloading his classes.

So far his drama experience at Elon has included playing the role of Jack in "Into the Woods," Assistant Director with "Crimes of The Heart" and his recent lead role as Curly in "Oklahoma!"

This is actually Pittman's second appearance in "Oklahoma!" His first appearance was in high school where he took the role of Slim. Troy

said that a lead role has much more responsibility than a role in the chorus.

"I love working with the cast and my Director Paul Kerr. I love them because, to me, "Oklahoma!" is more than just a show. It's something I feel that every person who comes to the show can relate to one of the characters in some part of their lives and I think that most people would fail to realize this because they did not or would not go to the show."

**"Oklahoma!"**  
Tonight til Sat. 8 p.m.  
Sun. 2 p.m.  
McCrary Theater

# ON THE SCENE

## Our Choice

■ **Connells** headline Rolling Stone New Music Tour at The Ritz in Raleigh Nov. 4.

■ **Seven Seconds** will play at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Nov. 7

## Jazz Ensemble

■ **The Emanons**, Elon College's Jazz Ensemble will perform Nov. 8 in McCrary Theatre.

They will play contemporary and traditional jazz from the big band books.

The event is free and open to public.

## Heading To Concerts

■ **Sex Police** will play at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Nov. 5.

■ **Judybats and LIR** will play at Ziggy's in Winston-Salem Nov. 9.

■ **Prong, Clutch and Drown** will perform at Ziggy's in Winston-Salem Nov. 10.

■ **Southern Culture on the Skids** will play at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Nov. 11.

■ **Dave Mathews Band** will play at Wake Forest Nov. 11.

■ **Live and Weezer (with The Fatima Mansions)** will perform at The Ritz in Raleigh Nov. 12.

■ **Purple School Bus** will perform at The Lighthouse Nov. 16.

■ **Violent Femmes** will play at UNC-Chapel Hill Nov. 15.

■ **Melissa Etheridge** will perform at LJV Coliseum in Winston-Salem Nov. 22

## At The Movies

**Graham Cinema (226-1488):**  
Forest Gump

**Terrace Theater (228-1981):**  
Exit to Eden, Jason's Lyrics, Little Giants, Love Affair, The River Wild, The Specialist and Wes Craven's New Nightmare.

## Homecoming weekend:

# Those funky '70s groovin' events



### Money drive and Voting in Long:

Each organization will collect money today and tomorrow for Alamance Coalition On Adolescent Pregnancy.

Voting for Homecoming queen and king will also be held today. The winners will be announced at the football game on Saturday.

### Tonight:

Theme Night Competition will be held in Whitley Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$2 and seating in Whitley is limited.

### Friday

"Friday Fest" at Scott Plaza will begin at 7 p.m.

include: a pep rally, fireworks, a comedian and a performance by Dakota.

### Saturday:

Float competition and a parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Haggard Avenue.

A football game will be held at 2 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.