

Students present 'A Grand Night for Singing'

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Pendulum Reporter

Music theater majors from the theater arts department will put on a number of show stopping performances from some of the best musicals in theater history Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in McCrary Theater.

"A Grand Night for Singing" started six years ago as a way for students who weren't in the big shows or plays to have an opportunity to showcase their talents, said Catherine McNeela, director of the show.

"It gave them an opportunity to fly and stretch their wings."

The show will feature musical numbers from renown shows like "West Side Story," "Smokey Joe's Cafe," "Company," "Beauty and the Beast" and several others.

"There are about 15 numbers being done by 30 majors," said Corey Bradley, a music theater major and assistant director of the show.

Bradley will lend himself and his talents to several of the musical numbers.

An average of four students are involved in each production.

McNeela said that when the show first began only students performed solos.

"There were only 15 majors back then, but now we have 45 majors and we had to cut half the pieces because we had so many good ones," she said.

"We have so many people now that it is impossible to do solos."

Over the years the show has changed a lot from people just singing solos.

McNeela said the pieces are now more complex and difficult,

but more exciting.

"A lot of dancing, choreography and movement are involved in all the numbers," Bradley said.

Last semester students were able to pick which musicals they wanted to perform.

In February, auditions were held and students were cast for the musicals chosen. Students have been rehearsing since February and have been working independently on their productions.

"They were in charge of directing and choreography their own productions," Bradley said.

This week McNeela and Bradley will bring all the individual productions together for the first time since February to rehearse for opening night.

"They were in charge of everything up to this point, but now I'm taking over," McNeela said.

McNeela will critique the student productions and make the necessary changes. If she sees something she doesn't like, she will change it. For the most part, McNeela said that she is usually impressed.

"We have a lot of wonderful, talented students who are doing what they love most," she said.

"What could be more fun?"

However, McNeela admits that

the production does stress her out. She is used to being in charge and having everything under control, but for this particular show the students were in charge of putting their own performances together.

"Everything was out of my hands," she said.

"I don't need to worry but I do. I know they are going to make it happen."

Bradley said most music theater majors realize that they need to prove to the department that they can put on productions without the help of McNeela and other faculty members.

"The last thing you want to do is make a fool out of yourself in front of the department," he said. "You have to show them that you are responsible, that you are focused on your career and that you are dedicated."

In addition, Bradley said that the main purpose of the performance is to impress the audience.

"They need to realize that the show must go on," McNeela said.

Both Bradley and McNeela encourage everyone to attend the performance.

She assures that everyone will leave with a smile on their face.

"Each year I always say that was the best Grand Night yet, I'm sure this [one] will be true also,"

McNeela said. "It will be a fun evening."

*Do you know
an
Elon student
or professor
that
belongs in
jail?!?!*

**If you do then
put them
behind bars this
Friday in front
of the Moseley
Center**

**EΣA's
JAIL
and
BAIL**

**Friday
8 a.m.-
5 p.m.**

Top 20 Box Office Hits

Weekend of April 17

Entertainment Weekly

1. "City of Angels"
2. "The Object of My Affection"
3. "Lost in Space"
4. "Titanic"
5. "Paulie"
6. "Species 2"
7. "The Odd Couple II: Travelin' Light"
8. "Mercury Rising"
9. "The Player's Club"
10. "Major League III: Back to the Minors"
11. "As Good As It Gets"
12. "Primary Colors"
13. "My Giant"
14. "Barney's Great Adventure"
15. "Good Will Hunting"
16. "Grease"
17. "The Man in the Iron Mask"
18. "Everest"
19. "Wild Things"
20. "L.A. Confidential"

**The Student Union Board
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Saturday May 2; 3 p.m. at
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