

'The Vagina Monologues' brings new meaning to V-Day

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A&E Editor

The "V" word. Few have the courage to say it, and even fewer have the courage to yell it in front of a live audience.

For seven actresses and two sold-out audiences, the meaning of the "V" word turned their cheeks pink. For a riotous hour and a half, the meaning of the word vagina circumnavigated the globe.

"The Vagina Monologues," Eve Ensler's award-winning play, drew in large audiences for a good cause. Two sold-out performances in Yeager Recital Hall Feb. 10 and 11



Joan Marcus/V-day.org

Eve Ensler donated the rights to her award-winning play "The Vagina Monologues" to universities through V-Day's awareness effort, College Campaign.

surrounding environment."

"If my vagina could talk—two words—*slow down*," freshman Lexi Apostolou read.

Audiences only dream of laughing this loudly at a live performance.

The monologues, based on Ensler's interviews, were read by seven female Elon students who used numerous accents to convey the identities of women around the world.

The audience burst out with such raucous laughter that lines delivered after the punchlines were most often inaudible. But it did not matter.

The palpable bond between female audience members was ce-

mented by their united laughter at some of life's most trivial and embarrassing moments. These light but effective vignettes were complemented by stories that told of deeper, heavier sorrows such as female genital mutilation, to which more than 130 million females have been subjected worldwide.

An arrangement of four of the actresses also presented a powerful piece that said in part, "My short skirt, believe it or not, has nothing to do with you."

Sophomore Charmaine Cale, who read several monologues, was initially hesitant about the script.

"I wasn't sure if I could get onstage and say these words, but it makes you so much more comfortable," Cale said. "Vagina—it's not a big deal."

Ensler's play is being performed in more than 200 cities worldwide, as well as several local universities (see www.vday.org for dates).



Annette Randall/Photo Editor

Seven actresses read the monologues on stage at Yeager Recital Hall Feb. 10 and 11. The performances benefited Crossroads, a sexual assault resource center in Burlington.

"Eve Ensler could make a lot of money by selling her play, but she's letting people use it out of the goodness of her heart," said faculty sponsor Mary Jo Festle.

Director and College Campaign coordinator Anne Corbitt, sophomore, is pleased with the interest in the play.

"The most important thing it brings is conversation," Corbitt said. "You can't solve a problem without talking about it."

The performances raised \$1,144.74, which far-exceeded Corbitt's \$500 goal. The money will go to Crossroads Sexual Assault Response and Resource Center in Burlington.

"I'm hoping to see it ease a lot of their problems," Corbitt said. "I want to know that what we did is going to make a woman's life better."

review

were part of College Campaign, a program dedicated to stopping violence against women and girls coordinated by the V-Day organization.

V-Day's efforts started five years ago, marking Valentine's Day as a day of action. It has slowly evolved into a 12-week calendar of events starting every January.

In the play, the vagina took the audience as its confidant. It was angry, lonely and even described itself as an "anatomical vacuum randomly sucking in things from the

V-Day Statistics

- ◆ One in three women has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime.
- ◆ A woman is raped every 26 seconds in South Africa.
- ◆ In the U.S., a woman is raped every 90 seconds.
- ◆ In the U.S., a woman is beaten every 15 seconds.
- ◆ One in three murdered females are killed by a partner, versus 3.6 percent of males.

see www.vday.org for more information

The A List

Things to do around town

February

18 "Spaces of Exclusion": Digital Artworks by Bina Altera, Isabella Cannon Room, 5 p.m.

21 Le Tigre, Cat's Cradle, Carrboro

21 River North Chicago Dance Company, McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

22 Weezer, Entertainment Sports Arena, Raleigh

22 Edwin McCain, Cat's Cradle

23 Athenaeum, Lincoln Theatre, Raleigh

26 "A Peasant of El Salvador," McCrary Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

March

1 Nickel Creek, Stevens Center, Winston-Salem

2 Pinback, Cat's Cradle

2 moe., The Ritz, Raleigh

11 Death Cab for Cutie, Dismemberment Plan, Cat's Cradle

12 Nelly Furtado, The Ritz

16 311, The Ritz

TOP 10 Albums of the Week

1. Phantom Planet - "The Guest"
2. Sean Na Na - "Your Majesty"
3. Leaving Nazareth - "The Smith Chronicles"
4. "I Am Sam" - Motion Picture Soundtrack
5. Desaparecidos - "Read Music/Speak Spanish"
6. Puddle of Mudd - "Come Clean"
7. Bad Religion - "Process of Belief"
8. Bush - "Golden State"
9. Ben Folds - "Rockin' the Suburbs"
10. White Octave - "Menergy"

TOP 10

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