

Collage gives students and their parents a treat

Sarah DeBock
Reporter

When parents visited Elon this weekend, several events offered quality entertainment. Collage is always one of the most popular. In fact, Collage has become so popular that the stage in Yeager Recital Hall was abandoned this year and the performance was moved to Whitley Auditorium.

This four-performance show is consistently "standing room only" and the administration wanted to accommodate as many people as possible. "The only problem with Whitley is that voices don't carry as well in a larger room," said sophomore Perry Medlin. "Having Collage in Whitley is much better though. We can fit so many more people in and everyone gets to see it."

Every year, performance selections span the world of Broadway and pop songs. This year for Collage, popular Broadway shows such as "Pippin," "42nd Street," "Miss Saigon" and "West Side Story" were represented. Song selections ranged from a different take on friendship in "Three Friends" to tap numbers in "Handful of Keys" and "Go into Your Dance." The most serious moment was from "The Ballad of Sweeney Todd."

Collage is more relaxed than other performances put on by the Department of Performing Arts. While the long rehearsal hours and dedication to the show is evident, the audience really enjoys the laid back approach. Junior Aja Johnson agreed.

"I like the atmosphere because you can

laugh or cry, whatever you feel, and that's the point of theater," she said.

Sophomore Katie Donovan came so her parents could see what Elon offers, and also to support her friends.

"I love everything they do in the arts, the school that is. I wanted to show off to my parents how talented Elon performing art majors are. I also wanted to support the students; six people in the show live on my hall," she said.

Junior Theresa Krawczyk agreed. "It just scratches the surface of what our theater department is capable of and it also gives the actors a chance to have fun onstage in front of an audience of parents new and old to Elon."

The performers enjoy the show as much as the audience. Junior Lauren Redmond said, "I enjoyed getting to see some of the freshmen, our up-and-coming talent, perform, and being in a new space where even more people could come watch us and hopefully enjoy the shows. Also being able to come back from the summer months and perform right off the bat is also a great thing about Collage."

Even though the stage was a little different, the atmosphere and upbeat attitude



Nuri Abdur-Rauf/Photographer

Students in the Department of Performing Arts offer a Collage of musical numbers and vignettes to packed houses at the most popular event of Family Weekend.

was still there. The personality of the performers showed through and energy gets higher with every show. Senior Daniel Watts' use of the organ as a basin during "Officer Krupke" is a prime example.

That enthusiasm and dedication shows through in the performances - in fact the group is so dedicated that nothing can stop them from perfecting the show except a natural disaster such as Hurricane Isabel. If you missed Collage, never fear. "Grand Night for Singing" will be held this spring and is just as much fun.

Contact Sarah DeBock at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Tradition revived; community gathers for live music

Ashley Busch
Reporter

Where were you on Thursday night? If you weren't at The Lighthouse Tavern you definitely missed a show worth seeing. The wind was blowing and the rain was pelting the roof of the tavern, but the Hurricane Isabel had nothing on the people who showed up in support of Elon alumni Brian Wiltsey and his great music.

When the first band, Clay Cook Band, took the stage at 10 p.m., Elon students were ready to go and cheered on what was to be the beginning of a great night.

Clay Cook and his band played in support of Clay's new album, "Self

Serving," playing multiple songs from the album, including "Stand Back" and "Lead Me On."

The black-and-white checkered floor was barely visible as they performed a couple of cover songs that had the crowd riled up and dancing. Clay commanded the stage with his wide vocal range and energetic voice and thanked the crowd after every song.

Other members of the band, Matt Mangano on bass, Brett Harley on guitar and Shawn Malone on drums, played with mastership that had the crowd screaming for more when they were done. As the rain fell and the night progressed, more people began making their way into the venue just in time for the main event: Brian Wiltsey and his

band.

Wiltsey took the stage around 11 p.m. and went straight into songs from his latest album, "Ghost On The Outside."

The line-up was actually similar to the Clay Cook line-up because many of them were doing double duty: Clay Cook was on bass, Shawn Malone was on guitar and Brett Hartley was on drums.

Between most songs Wiltsey would stop and talk to the crowd about his days at Elon, his old band and how thankful he was for everyone coming out.

Songs such as "Something So Strange" and "When It's Over" had the boisterous crowd's attention and loud clapping and vocal support followed every song. Wiltsey's powerful vocals

and the band's command of their instruments had the crowd hanging on to every word and chord. Wiltsey even played on when the rest of the band took a much-deserved break and played requests and more acoustic songs.

The energy remained throughout the show and captured all who were there until the set was over. The show was a success for both bands and a wonderful, long-awaited homecoming for Wiltsey. This was the first of many shows throughout the Carolinas and hopefully won't be their last. One thing's for sure: Elon can't wait to have Wiltsey and the bands back.

Contact Ashley Busch at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.