

# Carousel Festival brings nostalgia

David Koontz  
Reporter

If there's one place where everybody can find something enjoyable to do, it is at local festivals and fairs. This weekend, Burlington celebrated its annual Carousel Festival in the community park.

"It's one of those things that people in Burlington do every year," said junior Mandy Padgett, who grew up in Burlington. "There's food, crafts, booths and sometimes good live music too."

Calling the festival one of the "staples of Burlington," Padgett described it as a "showcase of what Burlington has."

The festival proved that Burlington and its residents have a lot to exhibit. There were bouncy castles, booths for local organizations, craft stands, food stands, shop stands and rides.

Some rarities showcased around the park included a sand sculptor who worked all day transforming pounds of sand into art, and a pirate, complete with parrots perched atop his shoulders, doing magic tricks to entertain festival-goers.

Many families came with their children to enjoy the weather, rides and entertainment throughout the park. The two most popular rides were the train ride around the park and the carousel, which is nearly 100 years old.

While festival food is not always the healthiest choice, there's something about blooming onions and funnel cakes that make festivals that much better.



David Koontz/ Photographer  
Festival attendees enjoy the main event.

The main stage typically featured country music from both local and national bands that soothed the crowd. This year, national recording artist Whiskey Falls was the main attraction on the stage.

The festival serves as a place where children and parents can create memories together. Parents who grew up in the area feel a sense of nostalgia while they watch their kids enjoy the rides and eat the food that they grew up loving.

"There was this one dark enclosed tunnel section on the train tracks," Padgett said. "We always used to scream when we went through it as kids."

By the end of the weekend, festival-goers were satisfied with new trinkets to place around the house, a couple extra pounds from all the food and another Carousel Festival to look back on and smile.

# Dance Alloy Theater brings audience analysis

Kara Griffin  
Reporter

The Dance Alloy Theater performance at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 25 in McCrary Theatre, however, is especially exciting for the 49 dance major students and the countless number of dance minor students.

Before the performance, 15 of the dance majors enrolled in the choreography class this semester take a master class with the Dance Alloy Theater's Executive Director Beth Corning.

Lauren Kearns, assistant professor of performing arts, hopes students will receive a "heightened awareness of contemporary choreography and performance" that will be "inspiring in their own dance-making."

In the show Corning features her own works as well as pieces by modern choreographers Susan Marshall and Donald Bird.

"Arms," one of the pieces by Bird, is one that all can relate to because it's about the "fragility of relationships," Kearns said.

One of the more unusual and notable aspects to this performance is the 30-minute European Intermission. While most intermissions give the audience a chance to stretch their legs, run to the bathroom or grab some refreshments, this respite will be quite intellectual.

During this time the audience members will each receive a cupcake with a question regarding the dance pieces they've seen. The goal is for the audience to congregate and discuss the emotional themes of the dances and

what they expect to analyze and look for in the pieces coming once the show resumes.

The dance majors and minors will also help facilitate the conversations and contribute their own insight to what they've seen and their own predictions.

Kearns said the audience will get "a better hold on how one reads dance and interprets it," and "that type of dialogue happening on a college campus is phenomenal."

"[The European Intermission] would help me to learn a bit about how to interpret dance better," freshman Dylan Ketcham said. Although Ketcham isn't involved in the performing arts department, he's interested in what the show could teach him.

Similarly, freshman Emily Adams said, "I think [the European Intermission] expands your horizons."

With the master class for Elon's dance majors and choreography students, the innovative and contemporary dance pieces, and the highly analytical 30-minute European Intermission, Dance Alloy Theater's presence on campus is bound to be a beneficial and educational experience for all who attend.

"It should be a transformative experience," Kearns said.

"Dance Alloy breaks that fourth wall [of the theater], figuratively and literally," allowing the audience to, as Kearns described, "really witness work that is heartfelt and immediate."

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