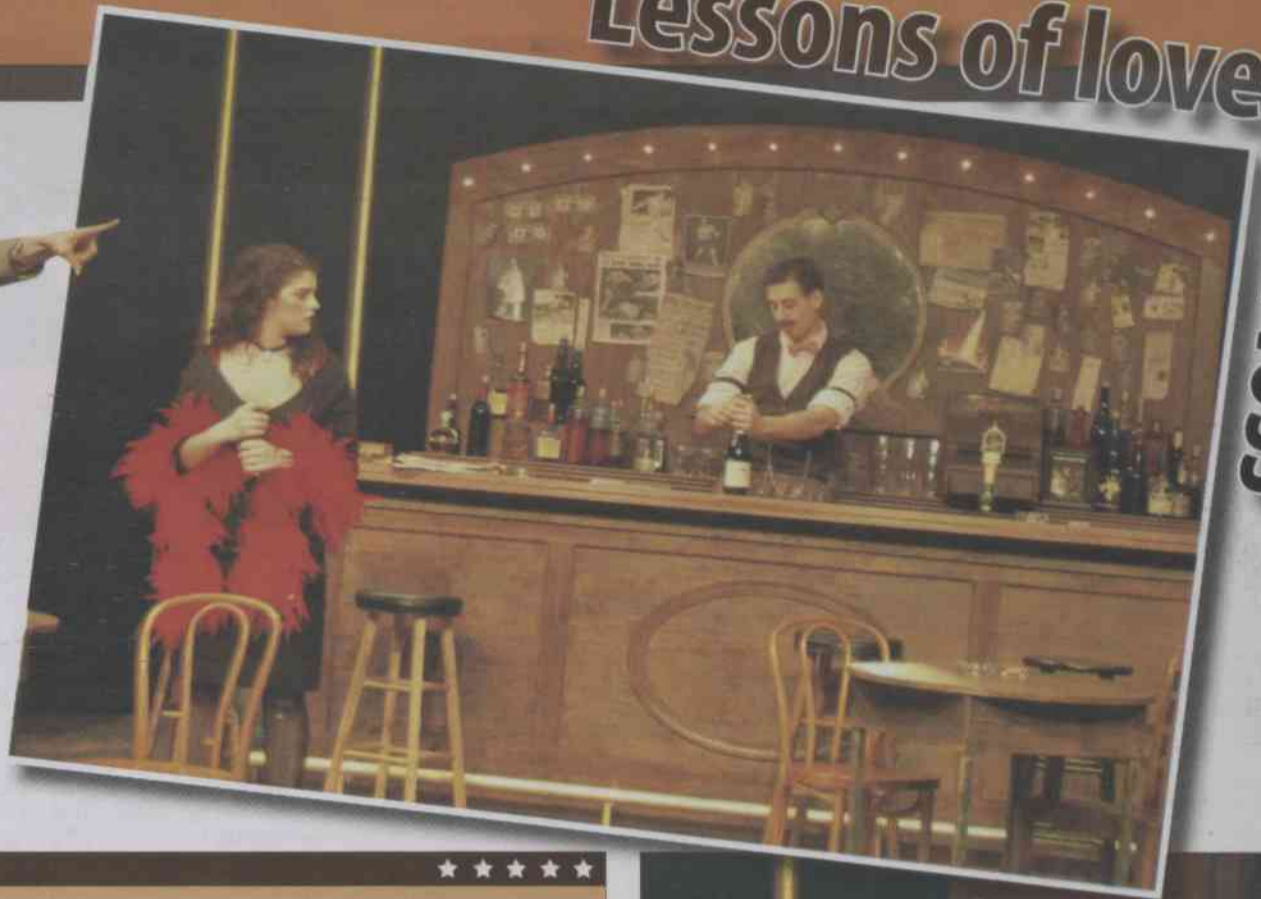


Style

Lessons of love

and loss



PERFORMANCE REVIEW



Performing Arts does Pulitzer-winning play justice

Sarah Beese
Reporter

Elon University's Black Box Theater was transformed into "Nick's Pacific Street Saloon, Restaurant and Entertainment Palace" as the lights came up on William Sayoran's "The Time of Your Life."

This Pulitzer Prize-winning play, set in San Francisco, tells the stories of the Nick's Saloon patrons and the lives they lead. Sayoran's work leaves the audience with varying emotions, including love, loss and friendship.

On a late October day, there are several strangers in the quiet waterfront bar. Like the people inside of it, the bar appears to be on the outskirts of society. The owners of the bar and other area businesses are in trouble with police officer Blick (played by junior Richard McNulty) for allowing prostitutes to be patrons.

Joe (played by sophomore Ben Morris) is the mysteriously rich patron who observes the lives of the people around him. Tom (played by junior Brendan Kane) is Joe's indebted assistant. Nick (junior Ross Denyer) is the bar's owner and a proud new father. One of the prostitutes that frequent the bar is named Kitty Duval (played by sophomore Kristina Loeffke.)

Throughout the play, the various characters that enter and leave Nick's Saloon share their stories with Joe. Other characters in the bar include the Arab (senior Kevin Manship) and Wesley (played by senior Mark St. Cyr), a young black man begging Nick for a job. Wesley becomes friends with Harry (played by sophomore Clark Kinkade), another young man seeking

work for his comedy act. Many other characters visit the bar, including a man who looks like Kit Carson (played by senior Teddy Scott), a society couple and a man in love.

The main plot of the play revolves around Joe, Tom and Kitty, with the other characters' lives intertwining amongst them. Kitty develops her relationship with Joe to the point that he becomes one of the first people to whom she shows her true self. Tom instantly falls in love with Kitty. His innocence blinds him, and he is unable to understand that Kitty is a prostitute. With Joe's help, Tom eventually makes his move.

From the principal characters to the cameos, each character had a story to share with the audience and they all tied together wonderfully. There were many notable performances.

As Joe, Morris had the perfect blend of a man who wanted to learn as much as he could. Loeffke did a stellar performance as Kitty Duval and her emotional scene moved the entire audience. And as the society lady, senior Chelsea LeValley was comical in her out-of-place appearance in the bar, as was sophomore Amy McNabb as Mary.

Freshman Kit Arbuckle, who assisted with costumes for the production, said she thought it was "thoughtful, moving, witty and refreshingly hilarious."

Fellow freshman Andrew Ontiveros agreed. "It was an incredible play," Ontiveros said. "Probably one of the best shows I've seen here at Elon. There were fantastic individual performances, as well as great ensemble work!"



PHOTOS BY JUSTINE SCHULERUD | Photo Editor
Student actors perform William Sayoran's "The Time of Your Life" in the Black Box Theater. The Pulitzer-winning play ran from February 3-6.