

Acting up: Technical Difficulties looking to become official campus organization

Eden Etzel
Reporter

Creativity, expression, public speaking and problem solving: all are elements of a successful career, and all are elements one can learn at Elon University's own improvisational acting club.

Improvisational acting, or improv, focuses on making scenes in the moment without rehearsal. Often, improv sketches can be humorous, similar to the TV show "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

Technical Difficulties, Elon's improv acting group, has existed for about three or four years on campus, but has not received organization status by the university.

"Technical Difficulties" is headed by theatre professor Richard Gang

and junior Ben Morris, an acting major. This year they are pushing for recognition as a university club.

"It would be great if Technical Difficulties became an actual organization," Morris said. "We would be so excited to have a table at the organization fair in the future and get as many people involved as possible."

The group has performed at Midnight Meals in fall 2008, and has worked with the communications department and recorded some performances.

Technical Difficulties members said they want to perform even more this year and not be limited to only a few performances, as has been the case in years past. The members want to be given the chance to portray to any audience all that a person can learn about him or herself, life skills

and how it can all be turned into pure entertainment in the heat of the moment. Technical Difficulties would also like to collaborate with other schools in the area in order to improve the organization and make it as successful as can be.

"As a group, we would really like to push our limits, get ourselves out there, and let everyone know about the entertainment we can provide them, if it's via a live show or a possible competition or collaboration with another school" Morris said.

Anyone can join "Technical Difficulties," regardless of if he or she is involved in the theatre department. Morris said he just walked into a meeting to get involved.

"I came to a meeting my freshman year and I had an absolute blast," he said. "After that I returned every week,

and the rest is history," he said.

A typical meeting involves warm-up games along with group improv sketches.

Those scared of speaking in front of groups can take heart. Gang said students should view improv as a fun outlet.

"Don't get up there (on stage) and try to be perfect or do the right thing because the whole purpose of improv is to act on your feet and not plan ahead," Gang said.

Students wishing to attend a meeting to see what "Technical Difficulties" is all about should go to Williamson Road Acting Studio, with the blue awning between All That Jas and Eleonore's Hair Salon, on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Fridays at 3:30 p.m. Members do not have to attend both meetings.

Senior seminar acting class to perform double repertoire for the first time

Eva Hill
Copy Editor

This year, senior seminar students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting program will be trying something completely different for senior performances. This fall, the seniors will be performing two shows, "Ravenscroft" and "Shakespeare's R & J," in one semester, instead of performing one play in the spring and one in the fall.

Typically, the senior students perform one show per semester.

Ross Denyer, an Elon senior involved in the productions, said this year's performances will bring exciting challenges, great potential and good shows.

"It's very hard to choose shows to do in rep, and there's a lot of collaboration with the different departments," Denyer said. "We have 10 acting seniors, and both of these shows complement each other."

Denyer said the students decided to double up on performances in the fall to leave more time to work on their careers. The senior seminar students also plan to bring casting directors and agents in the spring, and doubling up on performances in the fall will provide more time for focused work.

Fred Rubeck, chair of the department of performing arts, said the students have total control of these projects. He said it will be a challenge, which will provide good preparation for the life of a professional performer

after Elon.

"It was the seniors' decision to change it, and the students take care of everything," Rubeck said.

Rubeck also said the senior seminar class will perform three or four times a day when the performances begin in November, again similar to professional theatre.

The girls in the program are doing a play called "Ravenscroft," which is a murder mystery with the seduction of the sole male character, a detective.

"Shakespeare's R & J" involves the original text of Shakespeare being used in a performance put on by Catholic school boys who decide to perform "Romeo and Juliet."

"This will be a challenging experience, having two shows in the same space and alternating after each performance," Rubeck said.

Senior performing arts student Sarah Glover said faculty will serve as advisers to the students if they need help, but this is a learning and professional experience for the class.

"These performances are meant to show that the performers are ready to go out into the world," Glover said.

According to Glover, the performances will be Nov. 18-21 and the department is still working on specific times. Performances will likely be in the Black Box Theatre in McCrary.



Junior Cody Greene picks apples at Millstone Creek Orchards, just one hour from Elon.

ALEXA JOHNSON | Photographer

A local alternative: Try 'pick your own' outings

Alexa Johnson
Senior Reporter

those out first.

At Elon University, it's easy to forget that the countryside just a short car ride from our nice brick buildings.

For students suffering from boredom or those simply looking to put off work for as long as possible, the nearby fields and small towns offer a great alternative to lounging around watching movies in bed.

Interested in an activity that is fun and helps the local economy? Try picking your own fruit and vegetables.

Skeptics, listen up. Picking your own food can be a lot of fun with a group of friends. It's also fairly inexpensive.

Visit PickYourOwn.org and search North Carolina to see all the different options for "pick your own" outings. You can also specify which part of the state you would like to visit, depending on how much time you have to spend.

Right now is a great time to pick apples and pumpkins. Visit AllAboutApple.com to find local orchards and their contact information.

When picking apples, remember these tips:

1. Don't expect grand apple trees. Most apple orchards have dwarf trees, which are closer to the ground and easy for anyone to pick.
2. Color is important. Along with size and firmness, color will tell you if an apple is ready to be picked. Because color varies with the type of apple, some people research ahead of time.
3. Apples ripen faster on the branches farthest from the trunk, so scope

4. Inspect all sides of the apple before picking it. You don't want to grab a juicy looking apple only to feel your fingers slide into brown mush. When you do find a good one, gently twist the apple off instead of giving a hard tug or shaking the tree.

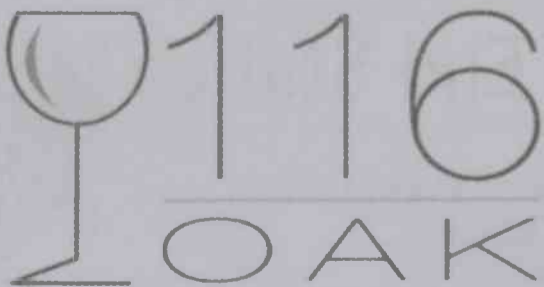
5. Don't dismiss the apples on the ground. Many farmers ask you to look at the apples on the ground because they are often ripe and have just fallen (or someone shook the tree)—they are still edible, although admittedly less fun.

6. Always call ahead. A lot of orchards don't have websites, so call to find out about cost and what kind of apples are ready to be picked.

North Carolina produce is prolific with long growing seasons and temperate weather. A few items of produce available for harvest:

- Apples (August to November)
- Figs (August to October)
- Beets (October to December)
- Broccoli (October to December)
- Carrots (October to December)
- Eggplant (June to October)
- Kale (October to December)
- Lettuce (September to December)
- Spinach (October to December)
- Winter Squash (September to December)
- Zucchini (October to December)
- Turnips (October to December)
- Pumpkins (September to October)


Ripening dates may vary by two weeks. Information from pickyourown.org.



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