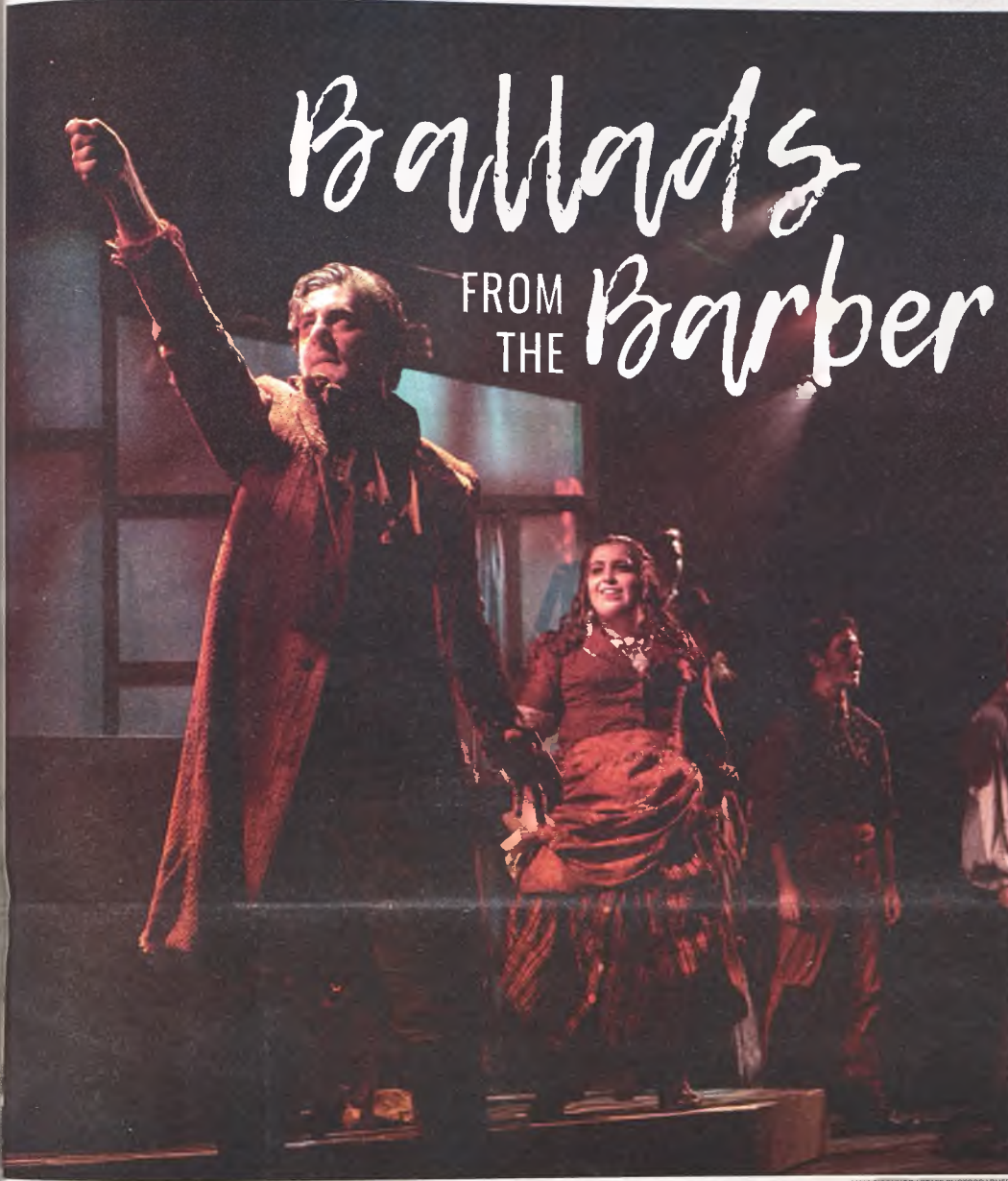


THE PENDULUM

Ballads FROM THE Barber



During the first dress rehearsal of "Sweeney Todd," Alec Michael Ryan, who plays the titular character, reunites with his old razors Monday, Oct. 22.

LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon musical theatre puts on a spooky, dissonant show

Deirdre Kronschnabel
Elon News Network | @kronschn

The single hanging lightbulb in the corner illuminated snaking cords, the color of bruises. Harsh purple light flashed in the orchestra pit each time the twin spotlights swung to center stage — a pair of fleeting highway headlights. They turned the patchy carpet a sickly yellow. Low rafters wrapped in thick, black fabric crossed directly overhead, mimicking furled pirate sails. The floorboards above creaked each time Sweeney Todd crossed the stage to growl a line.

Then, with a flicked cue, the organ began to play.

The music of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" was written by composer Stephen Sondheim. From Oct. 25 to 27 and Nov. 1 to 3 in McCrary Theatre, his score will underlie the story of a broken barber

exacting bloody revenge.

Kevin Lacey, a sophomore musical theater major and the assistant music director, joked that Sondheim decided

“

SONDHEIM IS LIKE ITS OWN GENRE, BECAUSE HE'S TRULY A GENIUS. IT WAS JUST SO MIND-BOGGLINGLY BRILLIANT.

ANDREW PURDY
JUNIOR

the parts by sitting on the piano keys. "You'll listen to the person sitting next to you, and they're singing a half

a step up," added junior ensemble member Andrew Purdy. "It's complete garbage on its own, but in the bigger picture, it sounds so cool."

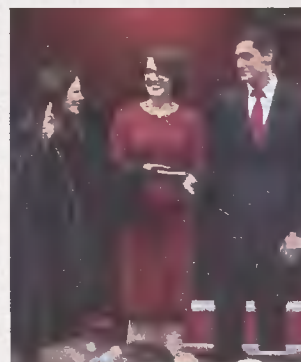
Singing Sondheim's score

Sondheim wrote certain music to represent each character, and at certain points in the production, the music turns to layers and layers of these different sections, one on top of the other.

"He's taking little pieces of songs and intentionally placing them on top of each other. Just playing with them," Purdy said.

"The whole thing is built on intervals — spaces between the notes that are really small, and follow a certain pattern," Liat Shufilita said, a junior who plays Mrs. Lovett.

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JESS RAFFOGLI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Connie Book swears on Isabella Cannon's '24 Bible during her inauguration in Schar Center on Thursday, Oct. 18.

Officially in office

Reflecting on Connie Book's inauguration as Elon's ninth president

Alexandra Schonfeld

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A 129-year-old story that started at the roots of a tree began its next chapter last week as Elon University inaugurated its ninth — and first female — president, Connie Ledoux Book.

Almost exactly a year after the university announced Book as the new president, succeeding Leo Lambert's 19-year tenure, the ceremony on Oct. 18 marked the official start of her duties as the presidential medallion was placed around her neck. The ceremony took place in the newly erected Schar Center, which was filled with students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

Book opened her inaugural address by referencing what she called "Liberating Acts." She highlighted a book she was given when she began her time at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina — where Book served as the first female provost for more than two years.

Book took the job at The Citadel in 2015 with no previous military background — which is nearly unheard of for the 176-year-old institution whose student body is about 90 percent male.

But that was her "Liberating Act." After working at Elon for 17 years, Book made the decision to dive head-first into the opportunity to be second-in-command at the military college.

The theme of freeing oneself followed through the entirety of Book's speech, remembering back to her father's "Liberating Act." He piled his wife and nine children into their station wagon in 1970, left their home in Louisiana and went to pursue a graduate degree at Oregon State University—sparking Book's love of higher education.

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Tailgating to create new traditions for student.