

arts & HUMANITIES

Election Pop Quiz

Sharpen your pencil and take a break from the books—with a pop quiz. Don't worry this exercise will not impact your grade point average. Here are the questions.

Do you need to register to vote?
 yes no

Have you moved within Wake County?
 yes no

Has your dorm and/or campus address changed?
 yes no

Are you planning to vote at an Early Voting site?
 yes no

Will you be requesting an absentee by mail ballot?
 yes no

Do you know the location of your assigned polling place?
 yes no

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, log on to www.wakegov.com/elections. The Wake County Board of Elections website contains information and forms pertaining to and including:

- How to Register to Vote
- Absentee Ballot by Mail
- Early Voting Sites and Hours

Voters who need more information regarding polling places on Election Day, or have not received a registration card should call 856-6240 or email voter@wake.nc.us. Staff members are prepared to answer all questions.

Remember the deadline to register for the November 4, 2008 election is Friday, October 10, 2008.



Photo courtesy Steven Rolan

MOLIÈRE AT MEREDITH: MAYHEM AND MADCAP ANTICS

By Katrina Kempney
 Contributing Writer

The Meredith Ensemble Theatre's performances of Molière's one-act plays, *The Flying Doctor* and *Two Precious Maidens Ridiculed*, staged from September 23 through 28 on the gazebo lawn and in the Alumnae House, were a treat to attend. Everything about the plays, from costumes to sets to performances, was inventive and entertaining.

The Flying Doctor, set outside on the gazebo lawn, provided much slapstick comedy and many antics (who knew anyone could climb up the side of a house and slide down a flagpole so many times without looking the least bit tired?) Sganarelle, played by Sara Croninger, was the star of this act as the "flying" doctor and his less intelligent younger brother; Croninger was charismatic and energetically comical. John Honeycutt's bumbling Gorgibus also made many in the audience smile and laugh at his absentminded ignorance of the marriage plot afoot. The harmless trickery and romantic comedy provided many laughs for the audience; the humorous content was aided by the actors' enthusiasm and flamboyance. The play was short and sweet and thoroughly enjoyable.

The audience moved inside for the next act, *Two Precious Maidens Ridiculed*. This act started out a bit slower, with less direct humor, but quickly rolled full steam ahead. The young ladies Magdelon and Cathos were played by Jenn Beckwith and Abbey Collins respectively; they fully embraced their roles as sighing, affected romantics. But it is hard to say whether the star of this act was the nervous maid Marotte performed by Morgan Hoffman or the Marquis de Mascarille, played by Maureen Price, who puts on nobility to woo the unknowing young snobs as the valet of one of the disaffected suitors. From outlandish makeup to enormous hair to an ostentatious hat, the Marquis was a visual joke, and Price prompted many to laugh out loud at her character's obnoxious frippery and manic self-importance.

Both *The Flying Doctor* and *Two Precious Maidens Ridiculed* were an enormous success with the cast breathing new life into Molière's classic works. From humor all at once dry and satiric as well as slapstick, the two one-acts proved both well-performed and managed and provided for an enjoyable night at the theater. ■

BALLET: A MOVING ART FORM

By Caitlin Griffin
 Staff Writer

Sun., Sep. 21, I traveled to Memorial Auditorium with the Meredith College Honors Program to see the Carolina Ballet perform "Artistic Expressions." I had not been to a ballet in a long time, so I was not sure what to expect, but I was excited to see what the dancers had to offer their audience. Thankfully, my hopes for a stellar show were not disappointed.

I am easily distracted, but after only a few minutes, my entire focus was on the performance. The ballet opened with a few pieces danced to piano and violin. Although this introduction was fairly typical of any ballet, my eyes were glued to the stage. I was awestruck by how fluidly the dancers glided across stage without missing a single beat. Because I am currently taking a jazz class at Meredith and struggling to learn how to exercise rhythmic

command of my own body, I felt a great appreciation for the challenging skill that this company mastered so flawlessly. I have always thought of dance as a fun physical activity, but "Artistic Expressions" opened my eyes to dance as an eclectic and individual art form.

My favorite dance was "Pulse: The Feeling of What Happens." I was already on the edge of my seat when the stage lit up to reveal one male and one female bending their bodies to form the shape of a heart, swaying and trembling to the distant sound of a pulse. As the dancers slowly broke apart to perform their solo acts, I felt lighter, as if their fluid movements could at any moment sweep me up and move me through space and time with them. Through carefully controlled and perfectly precise body positions, a dramatic and beautiful love story

began to unfold onstage. As my vision blurred through moistened eyes, I suddenly realized that I could relate to the characters of the dance on a deeper emotional level than I had previously thought possible. For me, the performance was spiritually freeing.

I was sad to see the end of the performance and surprised that two hours and 15 minutes had already passed. I gave the dancers one last hearty standing ovation before following the bustling crowd into the brilliant Sunday afternoon sunshine, already wondering when I would have the chance to witness such artistic extravagance again. If you ever have the opportunity to see any performance by the Carolina Ballet, do not hesitate to take it—this talented group of entertainers will be sure to keep you twirling on the tips of your toes for the rest of the day. ■

