

Arts & Entertainment

Spring Play: Merrily We Roll Along

Dakota Bailey, Staff Writer

This April 6 through the 9 the Meredith theater is putting on Merrily We Roll Along. This play is about three friends (played by Meredith senior Karyn Raynor, local actor Jon Skinner, and guest artist Peter Vitale) as we travel with them through their lives and milestones. The only trick is, we're going backwards, starting in 1976 and ending in 1957.

Peter Vitale, Meredith's guest artist, is a professional Equity actor who is located in Minnesota. Dr. Catherine Rodgers, who is also directing the play, told me a little about our special guest. "He is currently the musical director

for Ten Thousand Things Theatre (in Minnesota). He has played several leading roles for Meredith Ensemble Theatre since moving to the twin cities. Peter was in the first musical I directed here, The Fantastiks." The theater is very happy to be having Mr. Vitale here again, especially since his character has some challenging things to accomplish. "Frank (Vitale's character) is... a demanding role that requires the actor to play the piano while singing or accompanying other actors while they perform. Not just any actor is able to do this as effortlessly as Mr. Vitale!"

Dr. Rodgers, having directed plays before, was kind enough to share her favorite part of directing Merrily We Roll Along. "My favorite part of directing this show has been the strong collaboration between my colleagues and friends--musical director Dr. Jim Waddelow, choreographer Cindy Carbone, scenic/lighting designer Jenni Becker and costume designer LeGrande Smith. In addition, it has been so valuable to have Peter Vitale here to model for our students what a professional actor is/does and to see them respond to his strong work ethic. Finally, the biggest gift is always to see

firsthand the growth that our students have achieved during their four years with us."

Merrily We Roll Along is showing in Jones Auditorium April 6-9 at 7:30pm and the 10th at 3pm. Tickets are free for all college/university students who present a valid id and for all Meredith faculty/staff. Adults are \$10 and other students or seniors are just \$5.

This musical does contain adult language and themes so parental guidance is suggested.

Origins and Impact: Student Art Expo

Alexa Ianuale, Staff Writer

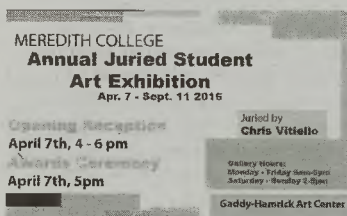


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The Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition juried by Indy Weekly writer, poet, and art critic Chris Vitiello will have its opening ceremony on Thursday, April 7th from 4-6 pm in Gaddy Hamrick. Displaying works ranging from paintings to stitch work the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition shows the mass amount of promise and talent that lies within Meredith students. The exhibition which is known for its display in the Rotunda of Johnson Hall has been moved to the first floor of the art building, Gaddy Hamrick, due to renovations in Johnson Hall. With

rumors that the exhibition may remain in the art building, people have come forward stating that the exhibition provides multiple benefits for the school while displayed in the Johnson Hall location.

This exhibit not only gives students a chance to showcase their artwork but to go through a juried experience. Former gallery director Ann Roth stated, "This is a 'real life' experience and confidence builder. There are also cash awards, which is common in most juried shows and is an added incentive." Current gallery director Lisa Pearce says, "The Galleries at Meredith College are active learning labs that not only hold artifacts of creativity from international artists to our students, but like the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, they provide opportunities that can begin a student's professional art career by providing a professionally reviewed/juried exhibition." Although the origin of the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition is unknown, Linda FitzSimmons who is a former

Meredith student, professor, and Art Department Chair states that art classes and exhibitions have been a part of Meredith College since its opening. "There were not that many courses offered at Meredith in the early days, but art was one of them," stated FitzSimmons. He also added that she believes the first student art exhibition to be on campus would have been in 1900.

As for its location, having the exhibition displayed in the Rotunda in Johnson Hall has proved to have benefits not only for the students and faculty that are already a part of Meredith but for those considering Meredith as a higher education institution or place of work. FitzSimmons who believes the exhibition should return to the Rotunda said that placing students' art in a public space acts as a recruiting tool. "The student art exhibition hanging in Johnson Hall was one reason I took the job as gallery director and adjunct faculty teaching color theory," said Roth. Roth went on to say that the exhibit "represented the

vigor and spirit of the art department" and that the mother of a prospective Meredith student told her that the exhibit and its placement in the administration building finalized her daughter's decision to attend. Even though the exhibition itself shows the talents of students its location is crucial in allowing others to observe and appreciate it.

"Each year, the quality of work seems to improve, and there are new ideas and innovations," said Roth. Not only do the techniques and media of artwork improve and change as the years go by the judges change also, originally being faculty from the art department and branching off to curators from the North Carolina Museum of Art and N.C. State University. Aside from supporting fellow students in their artistic endeavors as well as celebrating their talents, attending the exhibition qualifies as an academic and cultural event. This exhibition will be open until September 11.

What You Should Know About the 1891 Club

Brooke Mayo, Staff Writer

What is it?!

The 1891 Club was founded in the spring semester of 2014 and it is devoted to helping current students prepare for lifelong relationships with the College as partners, advocates and investors. There are members-only opportunities in which students can network with alumnae and gain the professional and social skills necessary for life after graduation, and members also benefit from admission to special events, discounts at local restaurants, and free t-shirts!

How do you become a member? How much is it?

Interested students can join online at community.meredith.edu/1891-club or in person at the Alumnae House. A membership costs \$25 per year, but first-year students can get a year for free if they join for four years at a discounted rate of \$75.

Membership fees go toward t-shirt giveaways, benefit cards, decals, and they pay for the free events for members throughout the year. Considering that the cost of a one-year membership could basically pay for one of the free shirts, this is a deal!

What types of events does the club participate in?

Well, just this year alone, the 1891 Club held a luau-themed event with a waterslide and free snow cones. There is also a meeting each semester that encourages philanthropy and the importance of giving back to the community. Members will also occasionally be invited to other special alumnae events such as the 125th Anniversary Lunch and Learn this year. Graduating seniors have also been invited to the upcoming "Life after Meredith" panel and dinner, which provides an excellent opportunity for

seniors to interact and network with alumnae.

What type of impact does the club have on campus?

When Alexis Trell, '15, was a student at Meredith, students were not provided with nearly as many opportunities to network with alumnae. Students didn't understand the importance of philanthropy and giving back to Meredith. The 1891 Club has been the solution to these problems. Students have become more connected to The Alumnae House, which will hopefully translate into more engaged and committed alumnae for the future.

What is available for the students graduating soon or already graduated?

All students who graduate from Meredith are members of the Meredith College Alumnae Association

and will be invited to alumnae events in their area. It is important to keep us up to date on your contact information so you can receive these updates and invitations! Graduates can also stay involved by attending events, or serving on the Young Alumnae Board. Graduates may also volunteer as a class gift agent, event agent, or historian. The Alumnae Office wants to do everything we can to help you stay connected to Meredith after graduation.

We are indebted to Alexis Trell, Assistant Director of Alumnae Relations, for all of this information about the 1891 Club. If you're interested in more information, you may email her at amtrell@meredith.edu.