

# Arts & Entertainment

## Lysistrata Review

Laurie Diggett, Staff Writer

When I first heard about the Meredith Ensemble Theatre's production of *Lysistrata*, I was somewhat confused. I was told it was a Greek comedy, but that it had been modernized to take place in the Civil War. Upon hearing this I wondered how that would work could possibly work out, thinking that the script would be so severely modified to fit the time they wished to convey that the original aspects of a "Greek comedy" would no longer be apparent. I was abundantly wrong about this assumption, however.

Director Catherine Rogers took the existing play and added her unique touch to fit the Civil War setting. Instead of Athens, Greece, the play was to take place in Athens, Georgia and instead of the typical garb of the Greeks, characters were dressed in mid-1800s Southern attire. To my surprise, lines were not changed as drastically as I assumed they would have to be

for such an apparent change in time and location within the piece. Despite the fact that the script did not undergo much more than a more modern English translation and a couple of location changes, the play worked; the original play mixed with Rogers's modernizations worked superbly.

Every joke was spot on and hilarious, the rhythm of the play flowed smoothly even though the poetic aspect of certain lines were somewhat out of place, and the set gave the audience an intimate and immersive environment for the hour of entertainment.

While *Lysistrata* is entertaining in itself, I would like to give a small warning to people who have never seen nor heard of it. *Lysistrata* is no "child's play" (pun intended). There aren't just raunchy jokes; the play is about women withholding sex from their husbands in order to stop the war.

It not only deals with



Photo Credit: Meredith College

the issue of war from different points of view, but it also shows how women were never expected to stand up for what they believed in. *Lysistrata* is a mature play and it does not make sexual references for mere humor, but allows those statements to be made in order to prove a point about women. Women were expected to cook, clean and serve their husbands as they pleased in ancient

Greece.

The fact that the same expectation held true during the Civil War speaks volumes, and it was a stroke of brilliance from Rogers that it should be modernized to show that women had hardly made progress for their rights in such a large amount of time. Overall, *Lysistrata* provides a comedic factor within a storyline that teaches a timeless lesson.

## The Enchanted Arcana of Greg Carter

Lauren Cannon, Staff Writer

"The Enchanted Arcana of Greg Carter," a new exhibition, has opened at the Frankie G. Weems Gallery located in the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center at Meredith. The exhibition portrays the story of the Tarot's symbolic cards; the illusionistic pieces full of bright colors and prints will bring you awe. Carter's display is full of intricate work, ranging from unique statues to digital output ink drawings. In Greg Carter's personal artist statement, he remarked that the exhibition is "a collection

of everything I have ever seen and everything that fills in my everyday experiences with the unexpected and with meaning." Carter states that his inspiration from the Tarot cards arose from their ability to tell stories.

The Enchanted Arcana exhibition will remain at Meredith until Nov. 11 and the hours for the gallery are as follows: Monday-Friday from 9 am-5 pm, and weekends from 2pm-5pm.

Stop by the gallery and be amazed!

Photo Credit: Lauren Cannon



## Remakes! Updates! Spin-offs! Oh my!

Teresa Bertan, Staff Writer

It seems that every time you turn around there is yet another remake coming out in theaters, a television series spin-off of a more successful franchise, or a fun 'new' twist on a classic story. While it's easy to give into the saying that Hollywood has run out of ideas, this is no new phenomenon.

Remakes and updates have been part of the film industry for decades. Some of the greatest classics that we know of and love today are remakes of early silent era

film. For example, *The Ten Commandments*, the biblical epic starring Charlton Heston, was a remake of the silent film of the same name. Yet remakes are more famously known for being unsuccessful. *Ben Hur*, also starring Charlton Heston, was recently remade as a summer blockbuster.

This 2016 remake was allocated 100 million dollars in budget, but the film failed to break even, making only 91.1 million at the box office. Perhaps it is easy to write off

remakes because they are so common -- just within the past few months we have seen a *Ghostbusters* reboot, a remake of *The Magnificent Seven*, and a spin-off from the *Trolls* franchise. While it can be easy to disregard remakes, updates, and spin-offs based on their more famed failures, often reboots make for films with lasting impacts. Perhaps audiences should take a second look before passing judgment on remakes, updates and spin-offs.

### Meredith Music & Arts Events

**Sinfonietta Chamber Music Concert:** Oct 30, Carswell Concert Hall, 3pm.

**The Enchanted Arcana of Greg Carter:** Oct. 17-Nov. 14, Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center Weems Gallery, 9am - 5pm.

**MET's production of Sudden Last Summer by Tennessee Williams:** Nov 7-12, 7:30pm.

**MET's production of Sudden Last Summer by Tennessee Williams:** Nov 13, 3pm.

**Digital Photography in Italy: A Visual Journey:** Oct 14-Nov 4, Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center.