

Arts & Entertainment

MCT to Perform *The Duchess Mislaid*

Sarah Kiser, Co-Editor-in-Chief



Photo Courtesy of Catherine Rodgers. Photo by Michael Feder.

The Meredith College Theatre will perform *The Duchess Mislaid*, a *commedia dell'arte* play this Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. *Duchess* is based on Flaminio Scala's published scenarios of 1611 and takes place in Tribano, Italy. Meredith junior, Leslie Castro, plays Isabella, one of the lovers of

the piece. The lovers of the play are stock characters specific to this traditional Italian renaissance genre. Directing the show is Professor Catherine Rodgers. She said "*Commedia dell'arte* is not a genre that is often performed today, although it has widely influenced all forms of comedy." *Commedia* is comedy of the professions, so "characters will have certain characteristics that appear in every play," Castro explained. In this show, audiences will see *Pantalone*, a grumpy miser of a father, *Il Capitone*, a suave phony, the *zanni*, or servants, and the lovers, who are always included in a *commedia* play. Castro described playing a stock character as "tak[ing] these 2-D characters and mak[ing] them three-dimensional." For all these stock characters, however, the titular character, the Duchess, is not one. She instead has some

surprising schemes up her sleeve — or is it her corset?

Audiences can expect high, hilarious humor. Castro added that "it's pure entertainment." She said "*commedia* is where the term 'slapstick' comes from," one of the *zanni* even "carries a slapstick to command the actors to get in and out of character." The set and bold shades of the costumes, which Castro described as "beautiful purples, reds, blues, and turquoises," match the mood of the show. Much of the acting is based off of *lazzi*, which is separate from the script. Rodgers said that "the challenges of the *commedia* work is to get the *lazzi* (or stage business) right. I keep telling the actors the old vaudeville saying, 'Dying is easy. Comedy is hard.' Believe me, it is true!"

Not to give any spoilers, but there will be a happy ending. Castro foretold that "everyone's

happy, and those who deserve justice have justice acted upon them." There is plenty of scheming, and there will be excitement, too. She said, "There is a great fight scene that is reminiscent of *The Taming of the Shrew* that me and the other lover have."

For this production, several male characters were switched to female roles such as Brighella, who will be played by Meredith senior Victoria Mitchell, and Pedrolino, a pre-modern mime stock character, who became Pedrolina and will be played by Laura Austin.

The Duchess Mislaid runs Nov. 7-11 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of Jones Hall. Admission is free to Meredith students, faculty and staff, and reservations may be made by calling the box office at 919-760-2840 or emailing boxoffice@meredith.edu.

Meredith Dance Preview

Carolina Brust, Staff Writer

The Meredith Dance Theatre (MDT) along with the Meredith Jazz and Tap Company (MTJCo) are preparing to perform a recital later this month featuring their fall semester's work. With the cooperation of former Meredith Dance professor and guest artist, Talani Torres, the MDT and MTJCo will host their productions from Nov. 17 to 19 in Jones Auditorium. The two groups will hold separate performances on Friday through Sunday. MDT will perform 7:30 to 8:30 on Friday and from 3 to 5 on Saturday. MTJCo will perform 7:30 to 9:30 on Saturday and 3 to 5 on Sunday. The weekend will conclude with a gala performance of selected works from 7:30 to 9:30 on Sunday. Tickets will be free to students and faculty.

Fun fact



Did you know that
CORN increases
MURDER?

Maybe that's why
everyone **KILLED** it



at Cornhuskin'
this year!

Cartoon by Micah Clark.

Stranger Things 2

Caroline Garrett, A&E Editor

Fans of the Netflix original *Stranger Things*, directed by The Duffer Brothers, have likely already begun watching (or perhaps marathoned and completed) the show's second season *Stranger Things 2*, which premiered at midnight on October 27, 2017, just in time for Halloween. The show begins with a comprehensive recap of the first season and contains nine episodes, or

"chapters," one more than the previous season.

Just as in the first season, the show combines 80's nostalgia, science fiction, conspiracy theory, loyal friendships, suspense, and adventure. The audience can't help but fall in love with the residents of Hawkins, Indiana, particularly the central characters, four middle-school boys. *Stranger Things 2* not only adds to the well-rounded

dimensions of the original cast, but also introduces new characters who are just as complex. Viewers who have been following the show since its conception have waited a full year to see the cliffhangers of season one be resolved, and this season delivers. In addition to developments on the original plot and story background, new thematic elements and edge-of-your-seat action occur as

adventures and thrilling dangers unfold.

For those who are looking for a break from homework, inspiration for an end-of-semester essay, or just an action-packed way to pass the time, make some popcorn, gather some friends, and settle down for a marathon-worthy show. And for the diehard fans who have finished watching already, guess we'll have to wait until next year.

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New writers invited!

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