

Happy
Galentine's
Day!

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Annie Get Your Gun Review

By Yajaira Ramos-Ramirez, Staff Writer, and Mimi Mays, Associate Editor

This week from Feb. 13 to 17, the Meredith College Theatre will present *Annie Get Your Gun*, written by playwrights Herbert and Dorothy Fields with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin. *Annie Get Your Gun* is a musical that focuses on the life and legacy of Annie Oakley, a champion female sharpshooter and a star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, which toured all around the United States and Europe. Annie Oakley was born



Anna Brescia as Annie Oakley. Photo by Laney Flaughter.

in Darke County, Ohio on Aug. 13, 1860. Her childhood was marked by the death of her father when she was six years old and by her family's financial struggles. At the young age of 15, Annie was able to pay the mortgage on her mother's house by using her father's old Kentucky rifle to hunt animals, which she then sold to a local grocery store. Annie's tenacity and sharp skills did not go unnoticed by the public as she gained fame for her aim. Another prominent sharpshooter, Frank

Seniors' Viewpoints on Graduation's New Venue

By Ashley Ricks, Staff Writer

The class of 2019 will be starting a new tradition this year, which has resulted in mixed emotions among seniors. Earlier this school year, Meredith announced graduation will no longer be at Dorton Arena; instead it will be held at NC State's Reynolds Coliseum. Although Reynolds Coliseum seems to be a step up from Dorton Arena, there has been a voicing of complaints among students. However, a few students are applauding the news of a new graduation arena.

is welcoming the move with open arms. Landis claimed that "one of the jobs the marshalls took on was to help these people not miss [their] daughter, or some cases son, walk across the stage. No one should be so hot that they have to worry about missing their family member cross." The heat was no longer a matter of convenience, but also a safety matter. Landis said there was a heat-related medical emergency during the class of 2018's graduation. The majority of students walking this May agree

family, said the ticket policy will create family drama because who she decides to bring will show disrespect to the other family members who were not asked to come. In contrast to Anorve-Basoria, Landis believes graduates will be able to include everyone at graduation, regardless of the ticket policy, because students who are not using all their tickets are allowed to give their tickets to other graduates who need more.

Although the majority of graduates are upset about the new ticket policy, some students are more upset about the location of graduation. Caitlin Chastain, a graduating senior, was upset that Meredith's graduation is being held on NC State's campus. Chastain commented, "I feel like Meredith girls are always having to fight this battle with people because they can't wrap their head around women's colleges. So there is this weird attitude that we are just a big sorority off of NC State's campus."

A Meredith staff member who knew about the details of the decision mentioned faculty and staff were faced with a tough decision on deciding where to move graduation once realizing Dorton Arena could no longer be an option. Staff wanted a convenient graduation location that would be able to fit in the budget, while also being available on the day of graduation. Reynolds Coliseum was the location that best fit the needs for Meredith's graduation, and at the end of the day, everyone will be crossing the stage in a Meredith cap and gown.



Photo credit: The Huffington Post

Callie Crawford, a pro-Reynolds senior, said, "When I went to graduation last year, I could barely hear the commencement speaker due to the inadequate sound system." According to a Meredith staff member, Dorton Arena's sound system is one of the reasons Meredith opted to change graduation locations. Crawford expressed further gratitude for the change because Reynolds has air conditioning, while Dorton does not. Crawford is not the only one who is excited to see graduation being moved to an air conditioned building.

Briana Landis, a senior at Meredith who serves on the Intercollegiate Student Advisory Board,

Butler, also became entranced by her skills and eventually became her husband.

Annie went on to have a stellar career as her presence and exquisite shooting skills earned her the position of star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. Annie drew large crowds and wowed thousands with her markswoman skills, surpassing even those of her love, Frank Butler. Annie has been the focus of many adaptations due to her incredible legacy, including *Annie Get Your Gun*, which was first adapted into a Broadway musical in 1946. The musical had a long run, ending with an astounding 1,147 performances. The show was an absolute hit and is still attracting audiences today with many revivals of the Broadway

that Dorton Arena is too hot to be a graduation venue, but many students are still upset with the new location.

Most of the objections are a result of the new ticket policy. Due to the layout and size of Reynolds Coliseum, graduates are only granted 7 tickets. A well-involved senior at Meredith who wished to stay anonymous was especially dismayed by the limited ticket policy. She said, "It does not accommodate many graduates' families and puts students in a position to exclude. Knowing that Dorton Arena has always offered Meredith students unlimited guests, it should have been a priority to find a location that matched this precedent." Yessy Anorve-Basoria, a senior with a large

show. Meredith College Theatre has chosen to adapt the 1999 version of the musical, especially due to the political incorrectness of the original. According to Professor Cathy Rodgers, liberties were taken in the story, as historically Annie Oakley and Frank Butler fell in love soon after their first shooting competition, whereas the musical focuses on the adversity between the two characters as Frank struggles with the idea of Annie being a better sharpshooter than him.

Annie Get Your Gun as shown here at Meredith is a fun ride that showcases stunning scenes and musical numbers. The show's set and lighting design transports the audience to the Wild West and makes one feel like a spectator at

Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The cast puts forth a consistently lively and engaging performance, and, luckily, the ensemble's often-clumsy dancing perfectly suits the scruffy personality of the ragtag players. Not one moment is boring, as humor is interlaced with the realistic dilemma Annie is met with throughout the show: living up to her label of best sharpshooter in the world or letting the title go to please the prideful Frank that refuses to lose to a girl. Professor Cathy Rodgers says about the show, it "is in essence a celebration of an extraordinary woman and her marksmanship, but is also an acknowledgement of the enduring love between two people."

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