

Entertainment

"Dancing at Lughnasa" challenges actors, connects audience

ASHLEY WELP

Staff Reporter

"Dancing at Lughnasa" which opened Dec. 5 and runs through this weekend, is the story of five unmarried sisters living in a small village in Ireland in 1936. The family dynamics are very realistic according to Annie Kaiser, Director, in that they're sometimes at odds with each other and other times so close.

The play, performed Dec. 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the Black Box Theater begins at 7 p.m. The smaller venue, which holds only 120 people is meant to give the audience a feeling



Michael Johnson, sophomore, narrates while Alyssa Aramaki, senior, Avery Breyne-Cartwright, junior, and Anna Stapleton, sophomore, work on household chores behind him. The play, which received excellent reviews on opening night, runs for two more performances tonight and tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Photo by Catherine d'Autremont

of intimacy with the story and characters.

"The play moves you. Throughout the course of the entire show you connect deeply to the characters, and you experience what happens to them. You feel what they feel. You feel that what they are expressing is what you are wanting to express," Michael Johnson, sophomore, said.

The cast which includes Andra Sturtevant as Kate, Caitlyn Olson as Maggie, Avery Breyne-Cartwright as Rose, Anna Stapleton as Agnes, Alyssa Aramaki as Chris, Johnson as Michael,

Corbin Wescott as Gerry and AJ Benya as Father Jack has been challenged to learn accurate Irish accents and Irish dancing for the play. Many hours have also been spent on constructing a realistic set.

"We're putting a lot of energy into making everything very authentic. It's supposed to have the feeling if a quaint little cottage. In Lughnasa, it's not as though the audience is a part of the play but rather they are there, in the scene. They will really enjoy that it is so close," Kaiser said.

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Dear Ani and Maggie offer excellent advice, solutions

Dear Ani and Maggie,

I'm a good kid. I get good grades, I don't do drugs or drink, and I participate in extracurricular activities. Lately, I've noticed my parents going through my text messages. While I don't have anything in my texts to be ashamed of, I feel as though they're disregarding all the good things that I do. This is a complete invasion of my privacy! I don't think they can snoop into every area of my life just because they're my parents. What do you think I should do?
Timid Texter

Dear Texter,

We agree that it is inappropriate for your parents to read your texts, but there's surely a reason why they feel the need to do it. Try sitting down with your parents and having a discussion with them about why you think their behavior is unacceptable, but be willing to make some compromises. Tell them you don't think they need to read your messages to check up on your behavior. Perhaps you could offer to give them more updates on who you're hanging out with and what you're doing. Maybe in this way you can gain their trust without feeling like your privacy is being invaded. Good luck!
Ani and Maggie

Dear Ani and Maggie,

Lately, I've been spending a lot of time with my new boyfriend. I try to balance my time between him and the friends I had before we

got together, but it can be difficult to do. Because I've been hanging out with my boyfriend more than my friends, they've stopped inviting me to hang out with them.
I'm

really upset because I love hanging out with them. How can I fix things and find a way to balance my time?
Frazzled Friend

Dear Frazzled,

First of all, apologize to your old friends. Explain to them how much you like hanging out with them and that you want to make an effort to do so. Initiating this will probably be the hardest part, but it seems like a necessity. After the apology has been made, try to set up a schedule for yourself. It doesn't have to be set in stone, but get yourself organized so you can spend time with both your friends and your boyfriend. If you think you'll have to cancel plans on either your boyfriend or friends, give them some advance notice. Also, don't cancel set plans with your friends to hang out with your boyfriend. If you show them you're making an effort, they'll probably appreciate it and start inviting you to do things again.
Ani and Maggie

Dear Ani and Maggie,

I've been sick recently, but unable to take a day off. I need to get some rest in order

to heal, but just a couple days off would be impossible due to the workload in my classes. Some teachers allow you only the number of days you missed to make up the work, but that isn't really enough because you have to do the work you missed as well as new work in a short time period. How can I make sure I get things done but still be able to take time off? It's not fair that students have to come to school when they're really sick in order to keep up.
Sickly Student

Dear Sickly,

This is something many of us struggle with. One way to make things easier is to ask for your assignments in advance if you know you're getting sick so you can accomplish some things while you're gone. If you're not feeling well enough to do work, try emailing your teacher while you're gone (or have your parents do it if you really need to stay in bed) and ask them to allow you a little extra time based on the amount of work you have. Some teachers will be flexible, some won't. Complete the work for the your more demanding teachers first, then

do the work for the teachers that give you more time. If you ask for help when you need it and do things in order of when they need to be done, you'll probably be able to manage a break for yourself. Maybe if your more rigid teachers see you're really trying, they'll give you a bit more time.
Ani and Maggie

If you need help with a problem and would like to receive help, please write a letter and place it in the "Advice Box" located in the library. All letters received will remain anonymous.

Vaughn, Witherspoon team in holiday comedy

CARLY HALVERSON

Staff Reporter

Over 500 people lined up two hours before the anticipated premiere of the film "Four Christmases" on Nov. 19. The show was played in the IMAX theatre where the screen was impeccable and there were enough seats available for the hundreds of people. This is the first film in which comedian Vince Vaughn and southern beauty Reese Witherspoon have played side-by-side.

Reese plays the role of Kate, Brad's (Vaughn) girlfriend of four years. They are a very independent, happy couple who have avoided their families over the past five years, especially at Christmas. When winter comes, Brad and Kate plan a trip to Fiji. Like their past Christmas trips, they were depending on a lovely vacation in the sun away from their families on Christmas. However,

because of weather

conditions, all flights are canceled and the "too cool for everyone" couple prepares for an accident waiting to happen... four Christmases with her mom's family, and her dad's family, his mom's family, and his dad's family, all in the same day. What the couple didn't know, was how this new obstacle is going to set them up for new decisions, opportunities and lessons to learn.

I thought the movie was going to be a typical love story, but it turned out being that, and more than anything, hilarious! The movie struck humor from the very first scene.

It is good for all ages, and

everybody can take a lesson from the real themes about families, conquering fears and relationships. The acting was very impressive as Vaughn and Witherspoon stay in and

stay true to their roles throughout the movie. All four families seemed characterized, making their antics enjoyable to watch. There may have been a constant state of humor, however, the serious messages shined through.

The nearest places to go see this romantic comedy are Bridgeport, Wilsonville, Tigard, Sherwood and Oregon City theatres. Tickets range from \$8-10.

