

Kennedy Center honors SU student-produced play

By KATHERINE ANTHONY

A student-produced play at Southwestern University has been recognized by the 2002 National Awards of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

G.H.O.S.T Unit: The Live Event was honored for “Special Achievement of Innovative Theatrical Experience.”

The hybrid production is the work of students Campbell Duffy '22, Jamie Hotaling '23, and Dane Parker '22.

Working with professors Sergio Costola and CB Goodman in their Devised Theater class, the students were tasked with develop-

ing a performance for the world-renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

Devised theater works are collaborative and begin without a script. Collaborators decide on what stories they want to tell and which characters to develop. The script is written as rehearsals proceed.

Based on Anton Chekov's play, *The Cherry Orchard*, *G.H.O.S.T Unit: The Live Event* spoofs reality television shows about ghost-hunting. It also addresses modern issues, takes place in four separate theater spaces, and coalesces on Zoom.

Actors performed before

a live audience in separate theaters. Each is in front of a green screen and controls their own camera and relies on their invisible assistant to help them with puppets and props.

The students stay in character, act and make sure the technology is working properly. They each have a table with a mechanical arm that holds the camera, two monitors, a mini-mixer to control the sound and a stream deck to help them customize their streaming process.

More information is available at www.ghostunitlive.com



Southwestern student Dane Parker performs in *G.H.O.S.T Unit: The Live Event*.

Roundabout

Submit events to roundabout@wilcosun.com

Community

PARADE OF GRADUATES

May 21, 9 a.m.

Georgetown ISD's Community Parade of Graduates will go on as scheduled at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 21. The parade will leave Georgetown High School at 9 a.m., travel south on Austin Avenue and circle the Square. Families and the community are invited to celebrate the graduates along the route.

Art

LET US PRAY

Through May 31

The “Let Us Pray” exhibit will be shown at the Williamson Museum from May 3 to May 31. Exhibit photographs by Wes Odell and Ellen Greeney capture religious images and houses of worship from near and far: Socorro and Taos, New Mexico; Georgetown, New Sweden and Clifton, Texas; Moscow, Russia; Sukhothai, Chiang Rai, and Ayutthaya, Thailand; Paris, France; Reykjavik and Gardabaer, Iceland; and Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The opening reception is Friday, May 6 from 6 - 7 p.m., 716 South Austin Avenue, on the Square.

SPRING SHOW

Through June 18

Sun City Visual Arts Club Spring Show opened May 1 and remains at the Activity Center, 1 Texas Drive, through June 18. It includes art demonstrations and refreshments. Come see more than 100 wonderful works of art, many for sale at affordable prices.

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT

Through July 18

The work of the Visual Arts Club of Sun City will go on display in a juried exhibit at St. David's hospital Georgetown beginning May 6. The 30 works in the exhibit includes oils, acrylics, photographs, collages, alcohol/ink, watercolors and mixed media images. All are from local area artists. The

club has worked to include works from new artists in this juried exhibit. St. David's Georgetown Hospital is located 2000 Scenic Drive. The Healing Arts Gallery is open during hospital hours.

PORTUGAL'S WINE STROLL

June 1 - 30

The art exhibit will be at the Round Rock Public Library from June 1 to June 30 by Ellen Greeney. The 16 colorful photos capture the essence of the amazing scenery of Portugal's Douro Valley, famous hillside vineyards, historical sites and storied venues. The library is located at 216 East Main Street in Round Rock. It's open Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 6 p.m.

Performances

SAINT JOAN

Through May 27

Lighthouse Theatre presents *Saint Joan, God's Mouthpiece* Thursday, May 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 20 and 27 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 21 and 28 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 22 at 3 p.m. Adults \$15, 12 and under \$10. All performances in the Event Center at Crestview Baptist Church, 2300 Williams Drive.

The Odd Couple

Through June 19

Neil Simon's revision of his hugely successful play, *The Odd Couple*, sees the lead characters transformed into Olive Madison and Florence Unger on the Playhouse Stage. Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive's messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues, Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband. Fearful that the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in as her roommate. However, Olive and Florence have very different personalities. www.georgetownpalace.com

WILLIAMSON COUNTY SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA SHOW

May 20 and 21, 7:30 p.m.

The Williamson County Symphony Orchestra is pleased to have two Ph.D. candidates in conducting from the University of Texas for its May Concert Series. Ms. Gabriella Mora-Fallas from Costa Rica and Mr. Ke-Yuan Hsin from Taiwan will bring their unique conducting talents to our performance. The Orchestra will be presenting “Great Music Arising Out of War” at two outdoor shows. They are free to attend. Shows are set for May 20, 7:30 p.m. at Elizabeth Milburn Park, 1901 Sun Chase Boulevard, Cedar Park, and May 21, 7:30 p.m. at Old Settlers Park Lake Pavilion, 1001 Harrell Parkway, Round Rock.

A FRIENDLY CONCERT

May 29, 6 p.m.

“A Few Good Friends” concert will feature Tammy Hays, Steve Dotson, Sara Newman and Rebecca Barho. Admission is free; a love offering will be collected to aid Ukraine. The concert will be held at The Worship Place, Sun City Campus, 811 Sun City Boulevard. twptx.org

The Drowsy Chaperone

June 3-July 3

Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a loving send-up of the Jazz Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. Performances will be on the Springer Stage. www.georgetownpalace.com

TROUBADOUR FESTIVAL

June 4

Garey Park will be home to the new Troubadour Festival this June, with a lot of live music and fresh barbecue on the horizon. The self-described “Texas BBQ & Music Experience” will feature 43 different barbecue vendors, 25 of which are from Central Texas. The June 4 festival will be accompanied by live music all day. Headliners for the shows include William Clark Green and John Baumann, with a special appearance by country group The Panhandlers and Josh Abbott Band. Tickets can be purchased at www.troubadourfestival.com.

SEASONAL SERENADE

June 5, 4 p.m.

The program titled “Seasonal Serenade” will feature principal players of the Austin Symphony Orchestra: The Artisan Trio (Patrice Calixte-violin, Bruce Williams-violin, Douglas Harvey-cello) with pianist Toby Blumenthal, in a program including the delightful duo for violin and viola K423 by W. A. Mozart; “Spring” and “Summer,” two tangos by Argentinian composer, Astor Piazzola for piano, violin and cello; and the romantic masterpiece by Robert Schumann, the Piano Quartet in E flat Major for piano, violin, viola, and cello. A \$40 donation is suggested, half of which will be donated to the People of Ukraine through San Gabriel Presbyterian Church. It will take place at San Gabriel Presbyterian Church, 5404 Williams Drive. For tickets visit classical-sound.org or call 512-914-4225.

Museum

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS

Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.

Every Saturday in May at 9 a.m., The Williamson Museum will host a Downtown Georgetown walking tour. Explore the stories and architecture of the most beautiful square in Texas. Tours will run May 14, 21 and 28. Tours are limited to the first 20 participants, first come, first served. Tours will meet at The Williamson Museum, 716 South Austin Avenue.

HISTORY TOURS

May 21, 10 a.m.

Georgetown's historical markers will come to life in downtown Georgetown from 10 a.m. to noon on May 21. Join The Williamson Museum and Preservation Georgetown to stroll around and meet the characters who helped shape our city. This is a free event. Maps are available on the day of the tour at The Williamson Museum, 716 South Austin Avenue, and Preservation Georgetown, 811 South Main Street.

Happenings

ALL THINGS WILD REHAB

May 20, 4:30 p.m.

Join Rentsch Brewery as they welcome

animals in the beer garden for an Ambassador Animal Meet & Greet from All Things Wild Rehabilitation. They will be donating \$1 from the sale of each Texas Lager that day to their cause. Some of their ambassadors include birds of prey, skunks, squirrels, opossums and owls, to name a few. Come enjoy a beer and learn about their organization and the animals they rescue. Rentsch Brewery, 2500 Northeast Inner Loop.

MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION

May 24, 6 p.m.

Ava Harper, a junior at Georgetown High School, will present her capstone presentation in the Georgetown High School Theater. The project is a bound collection of poetry, prose, and artwork speaking on mental health and loss to suicide. Ava is president of the Hope Squad at GHS, a suicide prevention organization. This show is free to attend.

AUTHOR SIGNING

May 24, 7 p.m.

Discuss the new thriller by popular Austin author Laura Griffin at Lark & Owl, located at 205 Sixth Street. She will sign copies and discuss the new novel, *Midnight Dunes*.

FAMILY HEALTH & FITNESS DAY

June 11

The Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department will host a family-focused event to celebrate Family Health & Fitness Day on June 11.

The free event will be held at the Recreation Center, 1003 North Austin Avenue, from 3-5 p.m. The event is an opportunity for families to get out and discover all of the health benefits provided by their local parks and recreation department

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 13 - 17, 5:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church 2022 Vacation Bible School will be themed “God's Wonder Lab.” It takes place 5:30 - 8 p.m. and is free and open to all. Free dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Children's Bible school is from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. for pre-K to fifth grade, and adult Bible study is from 7-8:15 p.m. with the theme “the intersection of Faith and Science.” All five nights will have five different speakers. Visit films.org to register.

Biographies on bulldogger Bill Pickett

When Netflix released the film *The Harder They Fall* last year, I became very excited as it was set to feature one of my favorite Williamson County stories, that of cowboy Bill Pickett.

From the outset, writer and director Jeymes Samuel made it clear the film presents a fictionalized version of historical figures and events. The goal of the film was to highlight that African Americans comprised about one quarter of cowboys in the late 1800s.

In the film, Pickett is presented as a member of Nat Love's gang. In reality, Willie M. “Bill” Pickett was born in Jenks Branch, Texas on December 5, 1870. Also known as the Miller Community after the brothers Milas, Richard, and Nelson, Jenks Branch was a freedom colony founded by the Miller brothers when they purchased land near Liberty Hill shortly after the Civil War. Freedom colonies, or freedman's towns, are communities founded by freed African American individuals and families. By 1888, the family moved

BIBLIOFILES

Ann Evans

across Williamson County to Taylor. While working as a ranch hand, Pickett developed a certain skill: bulldogging, now known as steer wrestling. The legend is that Pickett observed dogs wrestling steers to the ground by biting their lower lip and decided he could do the same. By biting the lower lip, it stunned the steer long enough for Pickett to wrestle the 500-600 pound animal to the ground.

It should be noted, Pickett stood at only five foot seven. He soon began performing at fairs and rodeos, often emphasizing his mother's Cherokee heritage, or claiming he was Comanche, as certain shows did not allow African Americans to perform.

Pickett married Maggie Turner in 1890, and together they raised nine children. To support his growing family, Pickett and his brothers began the Pickett Brothers Bronco Busters and Rough Riders Association in Taylor. However,

he continued performing and hit a breakthrough in 1904, when he performed in front of 20,000 people at Cheyenne Frontier Days in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The following year, Zack Miller of the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma traveled to Fort Worth to watch Pickett bulldog. Pickett joined the famous 101 Ranch Wild West Show, which featured Buffalo Bill, Will Rogers and more. Performing under the name “The Dusky Demon,” he traveled the world with the show.

After retiring from bulldogging, Pickett continued working as a cowboy and rancher. He appeared in two silent films, *The Bull-Dogger* and *The Crimson Skull* in the early 1920s. In March 1932, Pickett was kicked in the head by a horse. After several days in a coma, he passed on April 2, 1932.

Will Rogers announced the funeral on his radio show, stating, “Bill Pickett never had an enemy, even the steers wouldn't hurt old Bill.” His funeral took place on the 101 Ranch, and over 1,000 people attended.

In 1972, Bill Pickett became the first Black athlete

to be inducted into the National Rodeo Hall of Fame. In 1989, he was enshrined into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame and the Museum of the American Cowboy. To this day, the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo is the largest and longest running rodeo celebrating Black cowboys.

Unfortunately, the Georgetown Public Library does not have a DVD copy of “The Harder They Fall” available to borrow. Films released by proprietary streaming services and declining sales mean that many films and shows are not being released on DVD at all.

However, the library does have “Bill Pickett, Bulldogger: the Biography of a Black Cowboy” by Bailey C. Haynes and “The New Black West: Photographs from America's only Touring Black Rodeo” by Gabriela Hasbun if you are interested in learning more about this local icon.

See you soon at the library!

Ann Evans is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

What's going on at the library?

May 27, 10 a.m.: Sensory Story-time (tickets required and available at Kids desk at 9:30 a.m.)

May 27, from 4-6 p.m.: Artist Reception Dave Werner, Sung Cha Brooks, and Gene Grubb

June 2, 11 a.m.: Fiber and Friends
June 5, 1-3 p.m.: AARP Tax Coach (by appointment, call 781-218-9342 to schedule)

June 7, 10 a.m.: Summer Reading Voyage- Elizabeth Kahura (tickets required and available at Kids desk at 9 a.m.)

June 7, 6:30 p.m.: Georgetown Genealogy Chat with Williamson County Genealogical Society

June 8, 4-5 p.m.: Wired Wednesday

June 11, 10 a.m.: Summer Reading Voyage- Austin Reptile Show (tickets required and available at Kids desk at 9 a.m.)

June 19, 2 p.m.: Live Music at the Library, Austin Dance India (pre-registration required)

For more information about these and other library events, visit library.georgetown.org/events-calendar or call 512-930-3551.