

Dead Stage, Live Crowd: "Shakespeare's Dead Dudes" Comes to The Crypt

BY JOHN KELLY

The theatre program at Mount Michael has had a long history of putting on phenomenal performances. One recent tradition hosted during the fall semester is a One Act, a short play that tells a story in only one condensed act. This year's performance, "Shakespeare's Dead Dudes," was an act to remember.

The play consists of six Shakespearean characters: Hamlet, Caesar, Othello, Romeo, Richard, and Macbeth, along with the Director. In the act, the characters tell their woes and tragedies, as all the characters interact immediately after their deaths and waiting to be revived for their plays. The cast interacts with each other and the audience in an absurd and often satirical manner, making fun of the overly serious tendencies of Shakespearean literature and theatre.

"I was a bit worried at the start of this year, as we had only two people at the first tryout, but after some recruiting, and a couple of weeks of convincing, we cobbled together a full cast," Rylan Pearson '27 said.

Pearson's passion for theatre is what pushed the cast to perfection, meeting up every night after the boarders' study hall. This year the two veterans of the program, Pearson and Liam Kicken '26 both revived the program as two very dramatic characters, playing Romeo and Macbeth, respectively.

The play also recruited many new members like freshman Arlo Chubbuck as Hamlet, and junior John Kelly as Julius Caesar. The play was particularly a strange but welcome experience for these new members as they had zero experience at Mount Michael or any high school.

Chubbuck expressed his excitement for the foreign environment, stating, "At first, I had no clue what I was doing, but we eventually got the ball

rolling, and it felt like a real performance." But looking past the inexperience of most of the team, they pushed forward and had a phenomenal opening night with jokes in the play about things like the election and the whooping cough outbreak landing very well with the audience. "It was the best opening night I've ever had," Pearson said after the Thursday night performance. "A lot of the jokes landed very well, and the rap went great."

Another part of the play that especially entertained the audience was the scene where Romeo and Caesar invite a girl in the audience to the stage, whom Romeo also falls in love with. For all four show nights the girls selected thought it was hilarious.

Leah Kinnley '26 from Mercy Catholic, who was brought up to the stage Sunday, said, "I was super confused and didn't want to mess up the play and it was goofy because I just got to whisper random things to Caesar." Kinnley also later talked about how she had never experienced that level fun or interactivity from the many other plays she has attended. Many of the other girls that were selected also found it funny, with Marian sophomore Moira Harr even joining the cast photo after being called up to the stage Thursday night.

The audience was full and lively every night, and with the interactive clap of the rapping, and Macbeth's entrance from behind the audience, many in the audience were constantly on edge for the wild and unpredictable plot.

Patrick Killeen '27 said "it was like a constant stream of jokes and especially when Macbeth suddenly appeared behind me I could not stop laughing."



Shakespearean Selfie A cast photo of Laeth Sykora '28, John Kelly '26, Arlo Chubbuck '28, Liam Kicken '27, Patrick Johansen '28, Conor Langan '28, Rylan Pearson '26, and Marian sophomore Moira Harr. Harr was not part of the cast, but was called up to the stage by Caesar during the Thursday night performance.

The audience was indeed hit with joke after joke as the absurdist piece landed an even more absurd cast, like when Laeth Sykora '28 did the famous "They don't love you like I love you" dance during the rap. The improvised jokes like the dap up Romeo and Hamlet share after discovering they both died to poison, or even the joke Hamlet makes of calling Romeo "Tabasco" or "Alaska" all fit in perfectly to the strange and wild plot of the play.

Following the phenomenal performances of this fall play, and the superior performance at districts, the program prepares for the spring play which will be held at an equally high standard. As Pearson said, "I do not think that any factor of the One Act could have been changed to make it any better, it is just fantastic."

Finding Friends & Faith: The Bible Club Experience

BY J1 REPORTER WILL BOONE

A new potential Bible Study club, founded by sophomores Joe Schmitz, Max Teetor, and Noah Troester, is in the works hoping to bring students closer together and to understand the Bible. Mount Michael does not currently have a Bible Study club open to all and is hoping to expand the opportunities given to students.

Schmitz and his group don't want their group to be purely Bible talk, rather half Bible and half discussing worries and concerns. They hope to keep it engaging with this open time where it doesn't focus entirely on Bible talk.

When asked what made Schmitz want to start this club he said, "I try to go to morning mass in the Chapel as often as possible, but I often don't have the time due to homework. I thought a solid 20 minutes of reflection would be great and since our school doesn't have a Bible Study, this could be the solution."

Schmitz also included how he and Teetor were discussing including seniors. Involving seniors David Schmitz and Leo Dustin would tie in older classes to the developing club and would incorporate older people as leaders. With this, Schmitz wants it to be purely "student lead" with teachers only guiding them on how to set up the club. Troester said, "You can open up. It's a free environment." This special piece of the club offers students attending the chance to talk exclusively about what high school boys want to talk about and get opinions from other guys solely. Schmitz hopes teachers may

give them a shout out in religion classes to put it out there as anyone is welcome.

The club's future hopes to be an outlet for students who want to deepen their faith or simply talk about matters concerning them. Schmitz mentioned that he hopes for the club to be always there, like how mass in the Chapel is always available in the mornings and how Brother Jerome is always in the Atrium during the school week to talk about the oblate program with anyone interested.

If you're interested in being a part of or attending the Bible Study Club, ask Joe Schmitz, Noah Troester, or Mrs. Schleimer for more details.



Food Dyes Stain on Society

BY DEREK BREWER

Red 40, Blue 1, Yellow 6, Yellow 5. Artificial food dyes are responsible for the bright colors in sports drinks, chips, and candy. Manufacturers lean towards this artificial dyeing for several reasons. One is to enhance the natural colors and to restore colors lost due to air, light, and other factors. Another reason they use them is for flavor identification, such as purple coloring for grape flavored items and blue for blue raspberry flavored items. However, the main reason for its use is for appearance so it looks more appealing to their customers.

The safety of the use of food dyes is a long-debated topic amongst researchers. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have approved many dyes after tests on animals, and they have agreed that food dyes don't pose significant health risks. However, some dyes banned in Europe are not banned in the U.S. which leads to suspicion on whether they are toxic or not.

Many health concerns related to food dyes include hyperactivity in children, cancer, and allergies. Studies where researchers give a group of people without ADHD foods that contain the dyes have shown hyperactivity results. But the removal of food dyes from diets of people with ADHD decreased symptoms of hyperactivity. Cancer studies on Blue 1, Red 40, as well as Yellow 5 and 6 have shown no signs of cancer but concluded that other dyes may cause the disease.

One student in Mount Michael's junior is standing up for food dyes and he goes by the name Triple C (Color Captain Cole). Cole Rogge grew up in a food dye household: Doritos, hotdogs,



mustard, you name it. Rogge also has a secret talent of being able to decipher food dyes in any artificially flavored item. In an interview, Rogge was able to go 10/10 on correctly answering food questions including, "What dye is in Lemon-Lime Gatorade?" and "What dye does Coca-Cola have?"

"I think it is just something everyone should know," Rogge said. "I don't really know, it's just kind of second nature to me. But I have been reviewing flashcards with my mom every Tuesday and Thursday nights."

Rogge believes that food dyes should stay because the FDA has approved them, and the FDA conducts many studies and tests to make sure that these dyes are not toxic and are safe for all Americans. Rogge is a pro-food dye activist and believes that all the toxicity claims are false. Rogge has attended many Pro-Food Dye rallies and plans to attend more in the future. Rogge also stated that he stands for food dyes because "they make my food look yummy."