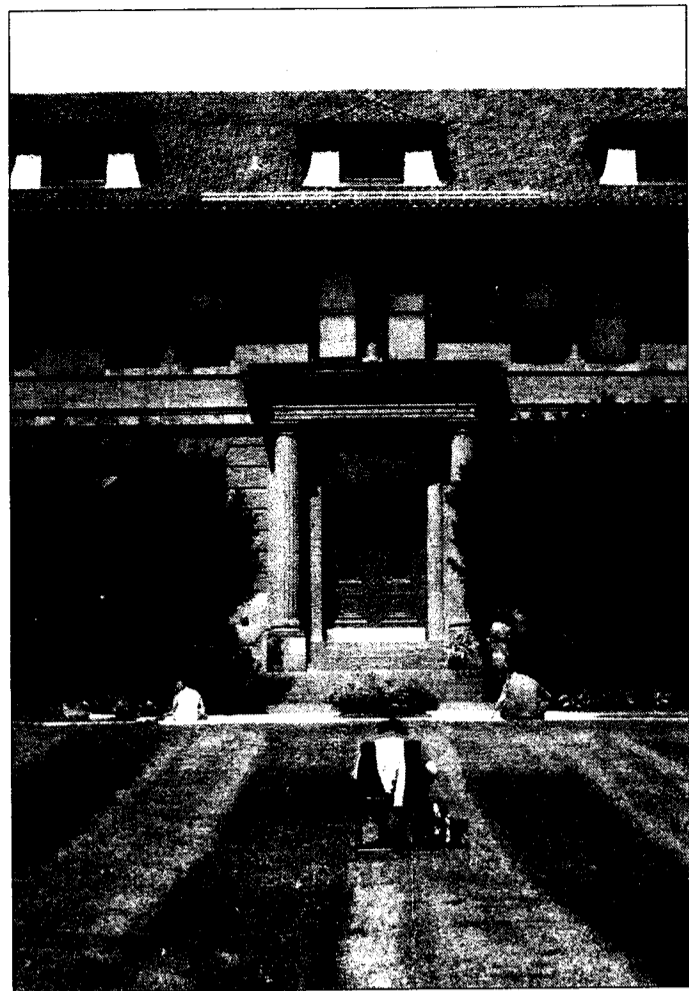


SKETCHING THE DAY AWAY



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Students sit outside and sketch the Armsby Building on Thursday.

'Much Ado' to play State Theatre

The Nittany Valley Shakespeare Company will perform a free show this Sunday.

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College Shakespeare fans have the opportunity to see one of the Bard of Avon's plays for free this weekend.

The Nittany Valley Shakespeare Company will perform "Much Ado About Nothing" at 1 p.m. Sunday at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Susan Riddiford Shedd, the play's producer, chose the play because it has a summer vibe to it and is one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, she said.

"I want to make Shakespeare accessible to everybody, which is why admission is free," said Shedd, the theater's operations manager.

The play, directed by Mary Beth Geppert, is about two romances. One is between Benedick and Beatrice, who hate each other at the beginning of the play and quarrel constantly, and the other is between Hero and Claudio, whose love is almost destroyed by an evil plot.

Husband-and-wife team Wil and Julie Snyder are playing the leads — Benedick and Beatrice, respectively.

"It's very cute," Shedd said. Wil Snyder said his favorite aspect of Benedick is the change that overcomes the character when he falls in love with Beatrice. "This is our first time doing something together on stage," he said. "It's a blast."

Most of the actors in the play reside in Centre County, with the exceptions of Geppert and four actors, all from DuBois, Pa.

Young thespians are also taking part. Five Park Forest Elementary School students and one State College Area High School student are honing their acting skills by working with the adult performers.

The Nittany Valley Shakespeare Company is "a collaborative ensemble that uses the power of the spoken word to communicate the great stories of theatre in accessible productions that are both theatrically innovative and faithful to the text," according to the group's website.

This is the third summer the company has put on a summer play — it performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The Tempest" in past years.

The company also works with

If you go

What: "Much Ado About Nothing" performed by the Nittany Valley Shakespeare Company

When: 1 p.m. Sunday

Where: The State Theatre

Details: Free admission

Centre Parks and Recreation to put on the Camp Bill summer camp, which gives youth participants two weeks to learn theatrical combat and Elizabethan dance at the Millbrook Marsh Barn, 548 Puddintown Rd. At the end of the camp, the students put on a short play for their families.

Earlier in the summer, "Much Ado About Nothing" was performed at the C. Barton McCann School of Art, Juniata College, Orchard Park and Sid Friedman Parklet. The performance at The State Theatre — the only indoor venue — is the play's closing night.

Shedd said the plays have been well attended so far, and the weather has cooperated.

"The theater gods are in our favor," she said.

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Penn State alumnus sets sights on Emmy trophy

By Karina Yücel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State acting professor Jane Ridley said those at Penn State's School of Theatre always knew Ty Burrell was "special."

Burrell, Class of 1997, is nominated for an Emmy award in the Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for his work on the television show "Modern Family."

Ridley said the announcement came as no surprise.

Ridley, who was Burrell's movement instructor and had a hand in recruiting him, said she remembers many instances when he would embody the character he was playing in every way.

"He learned to juggle, be a clown, mime and fight with weapons, all of which was by way of training him to live fully whatever character he was playing," Ridley said. "We cast him in an enormous number of plays. When you're good, everyone wants to work with you."

And those who have worked with him, even before Burrell reached the fame he now knows, said his success story — in a business known to be tough — is an inspiration to others.

Current students echoed those sentiments.

"Being a Penn Stater and aspiring actor, success is never guaranteed," Laura Mately (senior-theatre) said. "Having someone like Ty gradu-

If you watch

What: 62nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards

Channel: NBC

When: 8 p.m. Sunday

ating from the theatre program shows that it is possible."

School of Theatre Director Dan Carter directed Burrell in most of the plays he acted in during his time at Penn State and said he remembers the first time he watched Burrell perform.

"My first impression was that he was immensely talented," Carter said. "My second impression was that he was a really nice guy. My third impression was that he was a really versatile actor."

Carter said one of Burrell's talents that set him apart from other actors he's worked with is his skill with physical comedy.

"It seems like he's the only guy that's doing it," Carter said.

Many students at Penn State follow "Modern Family," something Mately said makes his nomination even more exciting.

"I absolutely love it," she said. "It's like the only show I follow. I love it."

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Fall gigs boast big names, big prices

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

If you want your chance to see the Eagles in concert, tickets go on sale Monday — but at a hefty price.

Though that Oct. 22 show will be an expensive concert, with tickets at a minimum of \$51, Bryce Jordan Center Director of Sales and Marketing Bernie Punt said it will be worth it.

"It's a pretty expensive show," Punt said. "It's a lot, but it's the Eagles."

Hikmet Goncu (junior-management information systems) said he was surprised Penn State booked the Eagles.

"They're a really famous band, and they've been around a long time," Goncu said. "A band like that coming to Penn State is something great."

In addition to the Eagles, Punt said this fall will offer a lot more concerts than other past fall seasons.

"There's just about something for everybody," Punt said. "Normally we only have three events, max, already planned in the fall, but this fall we have double that."

Mike Negra, executive director of the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave., said he's optimistic for this semester's lineup as well.

"I think it's going to be a great fall, especially for the student population in town," Negra said. "We always try to have as much variety as possible, and I think we've got it."

Punt said the BJC will also showcase some varied genres at Penn State this semester.

"We have hip-hop and pop Top 40 stuff to start the semester, but



Courtesy of The Spring Morning Herald

The Eagles will play at the Bryce Jordan Center Oct. 22nd. Their cheapest tickets are a hefty \$51.

then we have some country coming up, too," Punt said.

The BJC's season starts off with a hip-hop collaboration on August 31st with B.o.B and Traviie McCoy of Gym Class Heroes.

In terms of country, the venue will host Sugarland Sept. 3 and Carrie Underwood on Nov. 13.

Leigh Wolf (sophomore-community environment development) said she has a fourth row ticket to see Carrie Underwood.

"I love her. I think she knows her fans really well," Wolf said. "I actually started crying when my friend said she bought fourth row tickets."

The State Theatre also has a high-price concert this season, Negra said.

"The Rhythm Devils, which has two members of the (Grateful Dead), is going for \$49 — our highest priced ticket," Negra said.

Generally, though, Negra said he tries to keep ticket prices low.

"Most of our tickets are reasonably priced, and that's key for me," Negra said. "I always try to book shows that keep tickets in the 20s."

With prices in mind, Negra said he was confident in the theater's ability to sell tickets this semester.

"I never book a show that I don't think will sell out," Negra said. "I expect a really good crowd at every show."

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