Opera mixes bizarre with fun and music

BY FRANKLIN CLUNE

The theatre department’s choice to perform “The Threepenny Opera” was a good one—it’s a strange, daunting title, but the result was a surprisingly good production. Although not as well-received, it was more resonant than expected.

“The Threepenny Opera” is a silly play, featuring characters who live their lives in a mixture of humor, naivety, and transgression. The musicality, however, is surrounded by a certain lack of music that rarely comes together.

This is best exemplified by Ma Keivis as Hilly (aka Mink The Stiletto) Worthington, a crook, singing up a storm in her role as a predatory, hard-nosed, and intimidating woman. He’s also the anti-hero, as the play is about his fall from grace and redemption from his past as a dangerous man — think Richard Nixon (or Bush, in a perfect world). He’s also the anti-hero, as the play is about his fall from grace and redemption from his past as a dangerous man — think Richard Nixon (or Bush, in a perfect world).

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The supporting cast performed memorable numbers, including “Love Duet.” Senior Jason Qualls plays preacher Mr. Peachum in “The Threepenny Opera.”

“Love Duet” is also significant in the show, featuring Jim Simmons, a trucker, and his wife, Polly Peachum (Joanna Bess), as they celebrate their love and comfort. Finally, audience members were overwhelmed by the incredible diversity of the supporting cast, which played off of one another with an intensity and buoyancy that made for a truly unique production, despite the somewhat awk-

wardly un-sexily staged (and therefore uninclusive) fare such as the numbers about the “C rifles” and “Pirate Jenny,” respectively.

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Although a talented actor, Worthington's skill is thwarted by his character's disturbing moves and words, which make the audience feel like they're watching a show. Despite this, Worthington's performance is still captivating, and the audience is left wondering what could have been if the character had been given more opportunities to shine. The play's conclusion leaves the audience longing for more, as the show ends abruptly, leaving viewers wishing for more of this strange, surreal world. Overall, “The Threepenny Opera” is a bizarre and entertaining production that is sure to leave a lasting impression on audiences.