London invades Kirksville with 'No Sex Please'

BY ABBEY SNYDER
Features Reporter

Prostitutes, pornography and newlyweds are begging for no more sex.

These are not exactly the normal elements one would associate with a community theatre production, at least, not a reputable one.

But these are the ingredients for the Kirksville Arts Association's upcoming production of "No Sex Please, We're British." Director Todd Kuhns said the content of the show is absolutely crazy, ranging from slapstick comedy to physical humor.

"There are moments in this play where everything is going haywire," Kuhns said. "People are running in and out of doors, bumping into each other, and it's just hilarity."

Kuhns said "No Sex Please, We're British," which originally ran in London for more than eight years, revolves around a newlywed couple who sends away for some Scandinavian glassware to sell from home but ends up with Scandinavian pornography.

"At first it's a box of dirty postcards ... and then films and eventually girls, and all the while they're trying to get rid of all these things and hide them in any way they can," Kuhns said.

Junior Anna Pechenina said she plays the part of Susan, one of the prostitutes who acts as a pawn in a moneymaking scheme.

"There's a guy who sells pornography ... so he's sending all [these] pictures and video to random people who have nothing to do with it," she said. "When they decline, ... he sends prostitutes over to try and convince them otherwise. That's where I come in."

Pechenina said she participated in community theatre when she lived in Russia, but this is her first show since moving to the United States five years ago.

"Honestly I have not had much [theatre] experience," she said. "Hopefully I will do more shows here."

Although making time for extracurriculars as a Truman student can be difficult, Pechenina said she enjoys participating in the production.

"This is actually one of my good stress relievers," she said. "Actually meeting new people and getting involved is just really exciting for me, and it just takes me out of my misery and everyday homework."

Wayne Yanda, a member of the board of directors for the Kirksville Arts Association, also is taking on an acting role in the play.

"Every once in a while you'll see me in a show," he said. "This is the first show that I think I really sweat over whether or not I'd get a part because I love the script."

Yanda said it is a very exciting 90 minute production.

"It'll be the fastest, funniest hour and a half you'll have spent in a long time," he said. "The ending is good. I'm not going to give that away, though."

Yanda said "No Sex Please, We're British" is part of an ongoing effort to liven up the arts in Kirksville.

"It all plays into the quality of life issue in the community," Yanda said. "If there's an active arts scene that is attractive to businesses looking for a new location and ... it's something for people to do."

Yanda said the Kirksville Arts Association not only produces plays but is working to offer classes in the arts as well.

"There's been some tile painting classes, ... I think there's talk of some photography classes," he said. "They're going to start small, they're going to start hopefully soon and hopefully continue to grow."

Junior Ben Winkler said he hasn't heard of "No Sex Please, We're British" but, as a theatre major, would go see it for educational purposes.

"I would go to compare because when I watch shows I watch to see what I would do if I were in them," Winkler said. "I try to go two nights, one to enjoy and one to critique."

Even without seeing the show, Winkler said he is open to the idea of participating in community theater in Kirksville.

"Theater is really a community thing, and it's a great way to meet people," Winkler said. "Just knowing that there is one is going to spark enough interest for me to look into it."

Kuhns said having a theatre is very important for a community like Kirksville.

"In Kirksville we don't really have many options for live entertainment," Kuhns said. "We're the only community theater group in the area. ... I think it's special to be able to come out and see a high-quality live production."

The Kirksville Arts Association, which will produce a total of seven plays this season, offers anyone interested the chance to get involved, and Kuhns said everyone is welcome.

"Community theatre gives people an option to participate who wouldn't normally be able to participate," he said. "We have young and old here. People from all walks of life, all jobs, all coming here because they have an interest in one thing or another."

Although he is active in filmmaking and other artistic endeavors, Kuhns said he didn't get involved with the Kirksville Arts Association until last fall.

"It was a lot of fun, and from then on I've been getting more and more involved," he said. "There's really great people here. It's a great thing to do in your spare time."

Kuhns said Truman students especially will appreciate "No Sex Please, We're British."

Abbey Snyder/Index
Alan Altmansberger and senior Thomas Lecaque rehearse for "No Sex Please, We're British," presented by the Kirksville Arts Association.

"This show will particularly appeal to students I think because it's so crazy and it's a very energetic, vibrant show," he said. "I just don't think it would be disappointing anyone who came to see it."

The show will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 3 through Oct. 6 at the Kirksville Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased at the Edna Campbell Book Store or the Kirksville Arts Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Shoppers give discounts a glance, for others Wal-mart has no chance

BY JESSICA RAPP
Assistant Features Editor

Not all the faces of Truman reflect that yellow, "rollback" smile.

Wal-mart, loosely termed "the place to go" in Kirksville, does not appeal to some Truman shoppers. Now the largest corporation of its kind in the U.S., Wal-mart's low prices have "depressed domestic wages ... hurting Americans more than helping them," according to an April New York Times article.

According to the article, the consumer's view of Wal-mart is "decidedly mixed," and its reputation has gone through ups and downs within recent years. Anti-Wal-mart Web sites have cited the critic's negative views on Wal-mart's status concerning the environment, health care and labor laws.

Truman students who make it their priority not to shop at Wal-mart have formed their own purchasing ethics.

Junior Sally Hertz said that if she can, she will shop at other places before shopping at Wal-mart. She prefers to buy directly from producers by going to the farmers market on the square or to Hy-Vee. She said she also shops at local consignment stores.

Hertz admits that, like nearly every other freshman on move-in day, she and her family made some last-minute stops at Wal-mart to purchase food and other items for her room. However, since then she said she has come to realize the importance of supporting local growers.

"I really like being able to go to the farmers market and see where the food comes from," she said. "I think in a lot of ways our culture is suffering from a lack of social connection."

Hertz said this also applies to recognizing the source of Wal-mart products and how Wal-mart is able to sell these products at discount prices. Hertz said her research from an AFL-CIO (America's Union Movement) report titled "An Example of Why Workers Remain Uninsured" suggests Wal-mart has decreased labor standards by paying low wages and offering below-average health insurance.

"I think most people really try to make the most ethical decision," Hertz said. "It seems reasonable that if people choose to spend their money elsewhere, that Wal-mart will take notice and increase labor standards and better the way they treat employees and the environment."

Hertz said that when Wal-mart discounts its prices, consumers can trace the root of the discount all the way to the overseas factory where the items are made.

"We're such a complex society that we don't even know what the results of our actions are," she said. "That's a really great way of distancing ourselves from responsibility."

> "The impact of Truman to this Wal-mart is paramount. Our sales fluctuate exactly with Truman's schedule."
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> **Thomas Pierce**
> Co-manager of Kirksville Wal-mart

Thomas Pierce, co-manager of Kirksville Wal-mart, said he hopes people can think for themselves when deciding where to buy. He said Wal-mart finds it extremely important to fulfill the needs of the students and staff at Truman.

"The impact of Truman to this Wal-mart is paramount," Pierce said. "Our sales fluctuate exactly with Truman's schedule."

Pierce said one of the ways Wal-mart accommodates to students' needs is by sending out a survey at the beginning of the school year and acquiring items that are requested by the student body. He said that this year the Kirksville Wal-mart was the leading seller of notebook computers in its district after it had switched from selling desktops.

In reaction to the latest green movement, Pierce said the store is working toward sustainability. He said that in the last two years, Wal-mart began selling energy-saving products like more efficient light bulbs and recycled paper.

Wal-mart also sells USDA certified organic foods and has begun looking into fair trade products, where locally-owned businesses in the U.S. have an equal chance to sell their products directly to the large corporation, he said.

Not all students who are conscious of this movement think that Wal-mart has the right idea. Freshman Amelia LaMair said she thinks Wal-mart is being "hypocritical."

"McDonalds has salads, but it's not like they're about selling healthy food," she said.

LaMair said she also thinks that Wal-mart's business is taking money out of the local economy. Retail shopping options in Kirksville have been limited to only one additional grocery store and a handful of clothing and music stores, she said.

Business professor Neil Gilchrist said he generally supports Wal-mart's business strategy and said he does not think it has a negative effect on the Kirksville community. He said some of the grocery stores that went out of business in town had been losing business before Wal-mart added its super center.

"[Wal-mart] is one place to get everything I'm after," Gilchrist said. "I don't think anybody owes anybody else the right to be in business. The reason you succeed in business is because you give the customers what they want."

Gilchrist said he acknowledges that, in the recent past, Wal-mart has confronted various accusations of unfair business practices in stores around the U.S. in order to keep low prices. Gilchrist said, however, that Wal-mart actually pays about the same wages that a non-unionized retail business would pay its employees.

For more information for the late-night Wal-mart run, visit these Web sites:

www.walmartfacts.com
www.walmartwatch.com
http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/business/companies/wal_mart_stores_inc/index.html

HABITAT | Kirksville family awaits new home

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he could, such as picking up the yard and participating in fundraisers.

"He keeps telling everybody, 'This is my house,'" she said.

Casey said every layer of the building process continues to amaze her. Even little details like picking out paint colors and screwing on door handles are exciting for her and Jason, she said.

The bonus to all of this, Casey said, is meeting the people who are helping her build her house.

"I am so blessed by [the Truman students] and what they've done in this house, and they're from all over and all different kinds of walks of life," Casey said. "It's been really fun meeting the new people and working side-by-side with them, and they seem to really care about what's been going on."

Senior Brooke Frericks is president of Truman's Habitat for Humanity chapter and has been very involved in the building process of the Caseys' house.

Frericks said she first learned about Habitat her freshman year and has been involved ever since. She said it is something she plans on continuing to do long after she graduates.

"I just think it's a really good opportunity to give back and do something beneficial for the community that you see the end result," Frericks said.

She said her involvement with Habitat has helped her learn a lot of skills that she probably wouldn't have learned otherwise, including how to use power tools, install windows, put siding on a house, put in installation and paint, among many other skills.

"To know that you're giving her and her son a house is just the most amazing feeling in the world," Frericks said. "It's their step up in life, and it's awesome."

Truman students do the majority of the labor, but they work hand-in-hand with the Kirksville Habitat affiliate, Frericks said. Community members and the homeowners also contribute their time, she said.

"[Casey] has been amazing," she said. "She has been out there probably more than anybody else. ... I don't know how she does it with a kid and a full-time job, but she manages."

Frericks said that in addition to the two houses she has helped build in Kirksville, she also has helped build a Habitat house in her hometown Quincy, Ill., and frames for Habitat houses in Charleston, S.C. She said building houses for others makes her appreciate everything she has.

"I feel so much more blessed because I have two houses: my parents' house and then I have my house here," Frericks said. "And some people don't even have their own house. I can't imagine not having a place to call your own. It gives you a new perspective on what's really a problem and how blessed you really are."

The dedication for the Caseys' new house will be Oct. 7 at 3 p.m. Casey said if everything goes as planned, they can move in then.

"I close on [Oct. 5] on the house hopefully," she said. "Hopefully all the paperwork will be in line and all I have to do is sign my name about 1,500 times, they said. So that should be exciting. I don't think I'll get tired of that."

Casey said she never dreamed of having her own house, at least not while Jason was still in school.

"I don't have the finances to go out and buy my own house," she said. "And this was something that I never would have been able to do."

Casey said that having her own house will help make her family more stable. She said she and Jason are both excited to settle down in one place and not have to worry about moving anymore.

"It's mine," she said. "We're not going anywhere, we're just staying here. Just to know that Kirksville is home is good."

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