

Curtain Call presents "Evil Never Dies"

BY JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

Curtain Call Theatre Company, Kirksville's community theatre group, performed the improvisational show "Evil Never Dies" for their fall production Oct. 30 and Nov. 1.

The theatre company presented the murder mystery dinner show Oct. 30 at DuKum Upp, the second floor of the DuKum Inn. Audience members were served a full meal as part of the Oct. 30 events, while the Nov. 1 production, which took place in Novinger, Missouri, was a dessert-only performance.

Phil McIntosh, Director of "Evil Never Dies," said these types of productions are different from a traditional play because audience participation plays a significant part. He said rehearsals center around preparing the actors to answer the audience's questions.

"For these murder mystery dinner theatres, there is less rehearsal time in advance because so much of what the actors do is improvisation," McIntosh said.

McIntosh said the audience members were able to mingle with the characters during the social hour before dinner.

McIntosh said after the social hour they ate dinner and the audience members had a chance to meet each of the characters and collect clues about the murder. He said at the end of the evening, the audience had

the opportunity to cast their ballot for whom they thought committed the murder.

"Throughout the evening, from the moment they walk into the door until they cast their ballot as to who has committed the crime, they [would] receive various clues and reports that will help them along the journey," McIntosh said.

McIntosh said he was the only one who knew who the killer was until the end of the evening. He said the actors didn't even know which character had committed the crime. McIntosh said after the poll, he revealed

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Craig Shorten, owner of the DuKum Inn

the killer and awarded DuKum gift certificates to those who guessed correctly.

Craig Shorten, owner of the DuKum Inn, said not only did the show sell out, but they had to turn people away. Along with providing the venue and the gift certificates for the winners, the DuKum Inn catered the food. Shorten said this is the first time DuKum has worked directly with the Curtain Call Theatre Company, but DuKum Upp has been open to social and community events for the past 10 years.

"It's good to get your name out in the community and have people support your business, and at the same time we are out supporting their efforts," Shorten said. "These folks at Curtain Call, they don't do things halfway. They spend a lot of time and preparation and it's evident."

The Oct. 30 production was advertised as a NEMO Alumni Chapter Event. Mary McIntosh, NEMO Alumni board member, said members of the chapter were able to purchase tickets for the event before they went on sale to the general public. Tables were reserved for chapter members to sit together during the performance.

Mary said this was the first time the chapter had attended an event with Curtain Call Theatre Company. Advanced ticket sales and grouped seating were the only extra benefits offered to chapter members.

"It was basically just an opportunity," she said. "We couldn't offer them a discount rate."

Mary, who is an actor for Curtain Call, said she first had the idea to invite the NEMO chapter to a production when she heard they had done a group outing to the Theatre Macon in Macon, Missouri.

McIntosh said alumni chapter members accounted for 15 tickets to Saturday's performance. She said this was not a surprising number considering chapter members only attended one night of the event. She said the NEMO Alumni Chapter plans a lot of events similar to the dinner theatre during the year.

Gender-neutral | Student Government passed a resolution to implement a gender-neutral housing pilot program in Campbell Apartments by fall 2015

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difficult to discuss the next steps of implementing a possible program at Truman, but he said that decision requires more than just his approval. Gardner said he would have to have a conversation with Gilchrist and Paino to determine what happens next and whether the Board of Governors would need to be involved.

Paino said he hasn't read the resolution but discussion will continue concerning the future of a gender-neutral housing program at Truman.

"I do know this is an issue that's on members of Student Government's mind," Paino said.

Paino said he thinks because Gardner released his report in favor of the housing option, there might have been an impression of a commitment on Truman's part to initiate the plan during 2013 or 2014, but the University never adopted any sort of official plan.

He said during this time, he tried to listen to everyone's thoughts and get

a sense from Residence Life's policies regarding how they accommodate students who might be uncomfortable in same-sex living environments.

"I didn't hear of any concrete examples of anyone who felt discriminated [against] by a Residence Life experience," Paino said. "Because there were a lot of other issues last year, it was not a front-burner issue and last year, Student Government didn't really push on this as an issue and the discussion kind of faded away after the 2012-2013 academic year."

Paino said it's now clear this is an issue students want to address, so he said he asked Gardner to provide him with a plan to begin implementing the pilot program.

Paino said he expects the plan to be on his desk by next week. He said though he hasn't seen the resolution, he thinks he has a good idea of what Student Government would like him to do.

Student Government's Proposed Pilot Program for Gender-Neutral Housing

Before implementing this program, University President Troy Paino, Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist and Director of Residence Life John Gardner would need to approve the plan outlined in the resolution.

1 Initial Implementation

- A small-scale test would be implemented in Campbell Apartments during 2015.

2 Evaluation

- Truman administration would evaluate participating students' opinions about their experience rooming with someone of the opposite gender.
- After evaluation, administration would explore possible expansion to other campus buildings.

Source: "Student Government Resolution in Strong Support of A Gender-Neutral Housing Option Pilot Program by Fall 2015" from Oct. 26

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Free tickets for students with a Truman ID will be available in the Student Activities Board Office. Free tickets for faculty and staff with a Truman ID will be available at the information desk. Both are located in the Student Union Building.

A limited number of general admission tickets will be available for \$10 each at Edna Campbells in downtown Kirksville and the Truman State University Business Office cashier window in McClain Hall. Tickets may also be purchased online at lyceum.truman.edu.

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