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LYRIC THEATRE'S "INTO THE WOODS"

ABIGAIL BATES ('26)

Starting March 30 - this Thursday - at 7 p.m., four performances of Lyric Theatre's "Into the Woods" will be held in the Wesley Chapel. Following opening night, March 31 and April 1 have a show at 7 p.m., with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"We've been rehearsing since January, and we actually cast the show—we had auditions and everything back last November," says Professor Amanda Cox, director of the musical.

Professor Cox does this so singers have time to start preparing their characters and music, especially for a more complicated musical like "Into the Woods", a musical written by James Lapine, with music by Stephen Sondheim.

Singers spent about two weeks learning the music, and then they created staging. After this step, the singers layered in who their role's character is, and how to interact with other characters onstage.

"It's like building blocks, but if you skip some of the bottom ones, the whole



"Into the Woods" cast members rehearsing.

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

thing's gonna fall down," Professor Cox laughs.

The remaining steps are props, costumes, and everything else, including the pit orchestra conducted by Dr. Timothy McGarvey. He's responsible for keeping the show moving through cues to singers in the more complicated portions of Stephen Sondheim's melodies.

"He [Sondheim] is a very inventive and creative, and kind of—difficult to learn

sometimes—composer. He makes really interesting rhythmic choices that are unexpected," Professor Cox comments.

Singers have to simultaneously learn the notes and rhythms while training their brains to anticipate different and unexpected rhythms. On top of this, Professor Cox explains, the singers are memorizing the lyrics and dialogue, as this musical contains an even

mix of dialogue and lyrics.

Key difficulties for the singers lie in counting correctly to begin on time and singing in the right places during group numbers.

Junior Josey Ikker ('24) is double cast for the role of Red with Grace Vuolo ('24). Ikker practices memorizing lines and lyrics by playing the music or scene on repeat and listening to the line before hers for timing. As she's worked

with her role, she has formed a deeper understanding of Red.

"With Red," Ikker says, "she does have that level of innocence, like there's more innocence in her than how I've pictured it when I first watched the show. And you see her as, like, this very innocent girl at first. But then, as the story continues, you kinda see, like that small sense of the dark sense of humor that she has."

"Into the Woods" is a story about humanity and choices, Professor Cox says. It's about seeing others as human and trying to empathize and understand the choices they make, even if you disagree in the end.

"My favorite thing of sharing with an audience," Professor Cox says, "is always just the absolute magic and power of theater to invite people to think about things that they didn't know they were gonna think about when they walked in the door. It's like, a little bit subversive, but in a good way." ★

AROUND THE WORLD IN A NIGHT

VICTORIA HOCK ('23)

On Saturday from 7-9 p.m., in the Center for the Arts Atrium, the Intercultural Student Association (ISA) will host their annual "Around the World in a Night" event.

ISA Cabinet Member and Junior Christianna Fisk notes that "ISA's mission is to help students of various cultural backgrounds form strong relationships built on healthy cross-cultural communication."

According to Fisk, "This event [Around

the World in a Night] is a celebration of international cultures, especially focused on those represented here on campus." She further adds, "We have gathered a group of intercultural students and faculty who hope to share some impressions of their culture with the larger Houghton community."

At Around the World in a Night, Fisk says attendees can expect participants to share various activities and snacks from continents throughout the world.

Junior Grace Vuolo is one of the students who will participate in this event. She will represent Columbia, where her Grandad, a first-generation immigrant to America, was born.

Vuolo remarked that she is "proud" of her Grandad's "tenacity in searching out and working hard for a new life," and is excited to represent her and her Grandad's heritage.

She also feels that this event is an important one because "it helps educate and inform other University students of different cultures that they may not be familiar with in sheltered and privileged America, and two, it helps the University students representing their heritage to remember and be proud of where their family comes from, all geographically, culturally, and historically."

Fisk expressed similar sentiments, saying, "Around the World in a Night is meant to foster awareness of multiculturalism and be a time of joyful engagement with people whose stories are meant to be valued."

Those who want to learn about the different cultures at Houghton while experiencing various activities and enjoying snacks should stop by Around the World in a Night this Saturday evening. ★



"Around the World in a Night" poster.

COURTESY OF ISABELLA PASCHALIS

FEATURE: Linda Knapp

ANNA CATHERMAN ('24)

The Ortlip Gallery is one of the highlights of Houghton University's campus. For years, the gallery was managed by the art department. Recently, however, when Linda Knapp took on the role of Gallery Director in August 2022, it gained new leadership. As the Gallery Director, Knapp has taken a huge burden off the art professors and helped the gallery thrive post-pandemic.

Each academic year, five different shows are held. Each show requires planning, advertising, lighting, set-up and tear-down work, and more. This fall, Knapp worked with acclaimed painter Nick Blosser and alumnus Craig Proulx, who collects valuable mid-19th century David Roberts lithographs. In the spring, the Faculty Art Show, Student Art Show, and Senior Show are all packed in. Each gallery opening is a labor of love, reflecting the creativity of the artist(s) and hard work of the gallery crew.

Knapp is aided by three gallery assistants, including Junior Aubree Niles, Sophomore Aubrey Armes, and Senior Danae Jarrett. Niles noted that

getting to "work with Linda and the other gallery assistants has been incredible. We have bonded so well and so quickly."

Knapp echoed similar statements, praising her assistants for their work.

"They kinda taught me," Knapp chuckled, explaining she hadn't had much experience with running art shows before starting her position.

While Knapp is new to curating gallery experiences, she isn't new to Houghton or the art world. A fourth-generation "Houghtonite", Knapp's grandmother, Aileen Ortlip Shea, was the first art professor in Houghton's fledgling art department. Knapp grew up in the art world, but she wasn't trained as an artist or curator until recently.

She majored in Bible and Intercultural Studies at Houghton before completing graduate studies in Anthropology at Colorado State University. Still, she has a love for art. While she dabbles in a bit of sketching of her own, she focuses on uplifting others' works.

Former Gallery Director and Professor of Digital Media and Photography Ryann Cooley was very appreciative of the work Knapp has done with the gallery. He shared that

previously he was juggling the gallery alongside his normal class load and chairing the art department.

"I couldn't give to the gallery what it needed to be," Cooley said, and noted that Knapp is "doing a great job... She's bringing in a level of professionalism that's very welcome."

One of the highlights has been the emphasis placed on opening receptions. Exhibits that include gallery talks have been able to grant Around the Table credits, and have been drawing larger crowds than gallery openings have in years. Refreshments have also been a crowd-pleasing addition.

Knapp has been overwhelmed by the campus community's responsiveness to the art gallery's events. With the gallery openings at capacity or even overflowing, she noted that it has been so meaningful to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in "a sacred place" to support artists and learn about their work. ★

Sudoku

		4			5			
5				7		9		
		1	4		9			6
	6		5	1		7		
		9		4	7		2	
7			8		2	5		
		5		9				8
			3			1		

PROVIDED BY SUDOKUOFTHEDAY.COM

Difficulty: Medium

Last Week's Solution

4	1	7	5	9	6	3	2	8
3	2	6	8	1	4	7	9	5
5	8	9	2	7	3	4	1	6
7	6	5	1	3	9	8	4	2
1	3	4	7	8	2	5	6	9
8	9	2	4	6	5	1	7	3
9	7	1	3	2	8	6	5	4
6	5	3	9	4	7	2	8	1
2	4	8	6	5	1	9	3	7

Puzzles

Send the Completed Sudokus to STAR@houghton.edu to join our Puzzle Leaderboard.

Solutions will be printed in the next copy of the STAR!

Just a reminder to fill out our Mosaic Center Survey! We'd love to have responses from as many people as possible.

Just scan this QR code!



Spiritual Life at Houghton



KAT WOJTSIAT ('24)

Houghton University is a college founded on a Wesleyan faith in the Trinity, meant to be a community of believers pursuing academic excellence. As part of this institutional identity, spiritual life is an important focus on campus. Houghton offers numerous spiritual outlets to students, including chapel programs, worship sessions, daily prayer, and small group meetings. On paper, it looks like Houghton's spiritual life is thriving, with lots of programs and events. However, a real look at Houghton shows the sadder reality here.

A year ago, I spoke with a friend of mine who was President of Mercy Seat at the time. Mercy Seat is an hour-long worship session open to all students that occurs every Monday-Friday

night. He was having a terrible time finding musicians and prayer leaders to lead daily worship, and there were only one or two students actually attending Mercy Seat on any given night. He was so discouraged by the lack of student desire for worship that he purposefully gave Mercy Seat a one-semester break in hopes to give the students a chance to miss it. Since it returned last spring, attendance has been highly unpredictable, with anywhere from one to ten people on a given night. The current President, sophomore Jadyn Matton, said it is difficult to get people to attend, but when they are there, she has "definitely seen people uplifted and very excited!" People seem to enjoy their engagement with Mercy Seat and The Cry, but people just don't often partici-

"God is moving in the hearts of thousands in our society, but here at Houghton it seems like we are just pushing Him away. We see what God is doing in other areas of the world, and I know He can do it here at Houghton too!"

17th. Students had the choice to go to chapel 20 minutes early for extra praise and worship, but most students did not arrive until the usual start time. I got there after class at 11:05 and found that many students who were there already were sitting down or on their phones, as though this was not real worship and they were just waiting for the real part of Chapel to

practice honoring Him with all of our being; when there is worship going on, God wants you to join in! Even more, you should want to join in!

After worship ended, we had Houghton Alum Katie Allen ('20) come from Asbury Seminary to tell us about the Asbury Revival. It was a huge blessing to have a Houghton Alum right there experiencing this outpouring, and it was even more of an honor that we get to hear from her directly! She came all the way from Kentucky to tell us about this huge spiritual awakening that happened at Asbury! As she spoke about this revival, I sat in my seat feeling encouraged and warmed to hear about how God is moving in our country today. My heart was then broken when I looked around the chapel to see over half the students within my view on their phones and many more on their laptops.

I am a student too, and I fully understand that sometimes you have to cram in your reading for your 12 o'clock class during Chapel; these things happen! But over half of our students just scrolling away on their devices while our speaker is telling us about spiritual renewal is just so discouraging. God is moving in the hearts of thousands in our society, but here at Houghton it seems like we are just pushing Him away.

We see what God is doing in other areas of the world, and I know He can do it here at Houghton too! We just have to open our hearts and minds and put God first! After Chapel, worship continued, but very few students stayed. I want to encourage the student body to put down their phones, take out their earbuds, close their laptops, and rest in the sacred time chapel provides. Scripture firmly encourages taking a Sabbath, but I look around campus and see hundreds of students who never take a break. Chapel is a set time designed to allow us to rest in the Father's arms and join in communal worship, and we should engage in the time we are given to do so.

I pray that Houghton will see its own revival and that the Spirit will pour out on us. Our spiritual life has taken a beating since COVID, and we need to be renewed in our desire to seek God. There are plenty of resources; it is on us to utilize them. Participate in a Life Together group, dedicate one day a week to go to afternoon prayer, or make time to go to Koinonia each week! I hope that those who desire spiritual awakening will pray for Houghton to be renewed in the Spirit. I am not saying we need a two-week-long, nationwide, non-stop Revival. I just hope that each individual here at Houghton will take the step to make room for God in their lives, and I pray that God will move in this way here. ★

Kat Wojtsiat is a junior at Houghton majoring in Theology with a Youth Ministry concentration. She is currently serving as class of '24 student council representative and spends her free time drinking coffee and learning ceramics. This is her first article for the STAR and she hopes people enjoy it.

"The purpose of Chapel is not to just satisfy God with 40 minutes, but to practice honoring Him with all of our being."

pate! In addition to this, a small few students utilize the daily prayer and communion, with only between one and six students there on a regular basis.

The icing on the cake for me was Chapel on March

start. Worship is worship! We were given a chance to praise God with a little extra of our time, and so few people were actually excited to take advantage of this opportunity! The purpose of Chapel is not to just satisfy God with 40 minutes, but to

Have an opinion
you want to share?

CONTACT
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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
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The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton University since its inception. This is done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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The Houghton
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SPOT Review

SPOT 2023

Lexi Brown '24

VBS has come to college! I grew up where VBS was a “suggested opportunity” for me every summer, and even though the activities were always bordering on being way too cheesy, I ended up with good memories to look back on every time. SPOT this year was just as memorable and had the same goofy playfulness that I miss from childhood. Veggie Tales was always a family favorite for car rides, and as the band, Archibalding, played during SPOT, I definitely found forgotten lyrics springing to mind at the start of a simple riff. Hearing an audience full of college students scream the lyrics to We are the Pirates Who Don't Do Anything was certainly not what I expected from my college experience, but I didn't know it was missing until I heard everyone singing all around me. I also found myself making some serious eye contact with Bob, Larry, and Junior Asparagus, who were all wonderfully painted and decorating the stage.

A couple of key musical moments: Archibalding was not the only band to rock out to some fan favorites this SPOT. They also were not the only ones balding! The “Dad Band” took the stage and played a couple classic 80s hits, and I definitely wouldn't be surprised to see an animated meme of Dean Jordan jumping making its way around campus. I had never heard our a cappella club sing before, but quite enjoyed their rendition of Pentatonix' Hallelujah, and look forward to seeing more performances from them. Bunnies (with an honorable mention to Shua's fluffy companion) also invaded the chapel in a very suave and mysterious way and played songs that had the audience singing and laughing along with them. They really did come dressed to impress. Also impressive, Nuri returned with a violin accompaniment this year and sang about the preciousness of a mother's love.

From parodies on the popular Netflix series Cunk on Earth to Blair Witch-esque footage from Paine to the emotional trauma of class evaluations, the short films submitted were all funny, well done, and relatable, even though I'm sure no one has broken any of the Houghton PDA standards. Keep those 11 bibles on hand! I'll also be sure to keep my eye out for little German cows from now on.

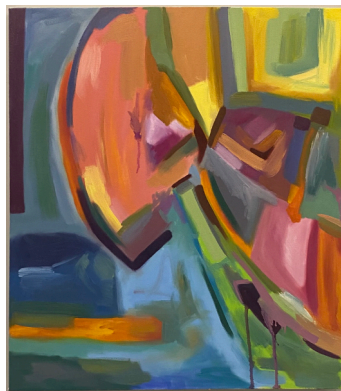
The hosts, Julianna and Anna, led some classic VBS activities, such as sword drills to see who's the best at finding a Bible verse, and a cowboy-themed chair-wrangling competition complete with on-theme cowboy hats. They also sat around a campfire as Caleb See told a scary story, and they challenged faculty in a Bible trivia game that, as far as I could tell, was extremely fair and definitely not rigged. Thank you to both of them for creating this memorable SPOT!

The show closed out with the announcement from a wildly expressive puppet Lucky that Roth was this year's winner of Hall Brawl. John announced his retirement with an unexpected villain redemption arc that left us wondering who could ever take his place? See ya at SPOT next year for more memories and to discover who's to walk in his footsteps!



Artist of the Week

Aubree Niles '24



Aubree Niles is a junior and a double major in art and psychology. Although she works with many mediums, she enjoys oil and watercolor painting the most. “Before coming to Houghton, I hadn't recognized the value of purely abstract work. It wasn't until after taking Painting II that I truly grasped its importance. Color is important to me, especially in my abstract paintings. It has the potential to express and evoke emotions unique to each individual. That is a special thing.” Her primary focus has transitioned to abstract painting, heavily about color and composition.

