

“Gruesome Playground Injuries” opens

MATT WILLIAMS

STAFF WRITER

The Arkansas State University Department of Theatre opened the first production of their season on Friday night with “Gruesome Playground Injuries.”

The dark comedy is written by Pulitzer Prize nominee Rajiv Joseph. It premiered worldwide in October 2009 at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas. It was produced Off Broadway by New York’s Second Stage Theatre in January 2011.

The play was directed by DayDay Robinson, assistant professor of theatre. The cast consisted of Skyla Conger and Gavin Wilson, who played

the roles of lifelong friends Kayleen and Doug, respectively.

The story followed the relationship between Kayleen and Doug, and the changes in their relationship over the course of 30 years.

According to Patrick Healy of the New York Times, “Each scene revolves around a new wound whether accidental, self-inflicted or from fights with others sustained by two emotionally damaged friends who minister to each other’s physical hurts but struggle to tend to their psychological pain.”

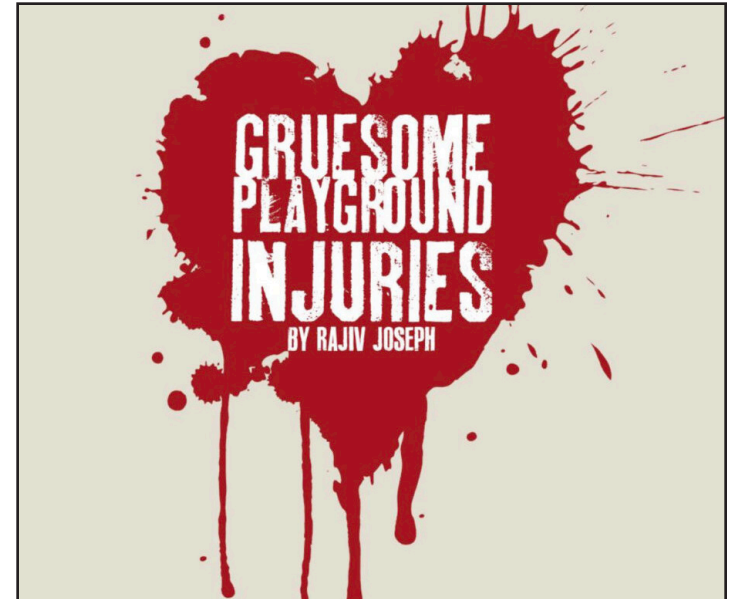
“From the first scene, I was mesmerized by the relationship between Doug and Kayleen,” Robinson wrote about reading the script for the first time.

She continued in the program’s director’s note, “Although I didn’t always understand the dynamics of their friendship, I felt deeply connected with their relationship and love for one another. You’ll see two people who love each other but also cause each other great pain. For me, Doug and Kayleen’s relationship is their ‘playground’ where they accumulate ‘gruesome’ physical and emotional ‘injuries’ while simultaneously experiencing triumphs, love and joy with one another.”

“Gruesome Playground Injuries” will have more performances on Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. and on Oct. 2 at 2:00 p.m. According to press

releases, it contains “sensitive material, including profanity, moments of dressing and undressing, depictions of gruesome injuries, self-harm, dangerous risk-taking behavior and references to sexual, physical and emotional abuse. This production is not recommended for those under 14 years of age.”

Tickets are available through the A-State tickets website (AState.edu/Tickets) or through the box office at the Fowler Center. Prices range from \$10 for seniors and A-State faculty and staff to \$15 for the general public. Tickets are free at the box office for A-State students with a student ID.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MISSOURI S & T NEWS

“Gruesome Playground Injuries” opened last Friday, kicking off the A-State Theatre season.

Molecular biosciences Ph.D. students win research awards at PSNA conference

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Two doctoral students in the molecular biosciences Ph.D. program at Arkansas State University recently received awards in recognition of their research related to the effects of high nighttime temperatures on the growth of rice.

Cherryl Quiñones won a conference fellowship and a best oral presentation award, and Kharla Mendez won a conference travel award, both from the Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA).

Quiñones is mentored by Dr. Argelia Lorence, who is professor of metabolic engineering and James and Wanda Lee Vaughn Endowed Professor at

A-State. Mendez is mentored by Lorence and Dr. Arlene Adviento-Borbe of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service Delta Water Management Unit.

The two presented their work, which they carry out at the Arkansas Biosciences Institute at A-State, at the PSNA international conference in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Quiñones’ presentation was titled “Assessing the Role of Ascorbate of a Rice Diversity Panel to High Night Temperature Stress Tolerance.” Based on a peer review, she won the award for best short presentation.

Co-authors of this work include Mendez, Shannon Cunningham, Wency Larazo,

Shea Harris, Zachary Campbell, Dr. Karina Medina-Jimenez, Hannah Seats, Abigail Wilkie, Matthew Luster, and Dr. Harkamal Walia, along with Adviento-Borbe and Lorence.

Mendez presented both a poster and a flash talk titled “Carbohydrate Reserve: A Promising Phenotypic Marker for High Night Temperature Stress Tolerance in Rice.”

Her co-authors are Quiñones, Cunningham, Larazo, Harris, Campbell, Medina-Jimenez, Walia, Lorence and Adviento-Borbe.

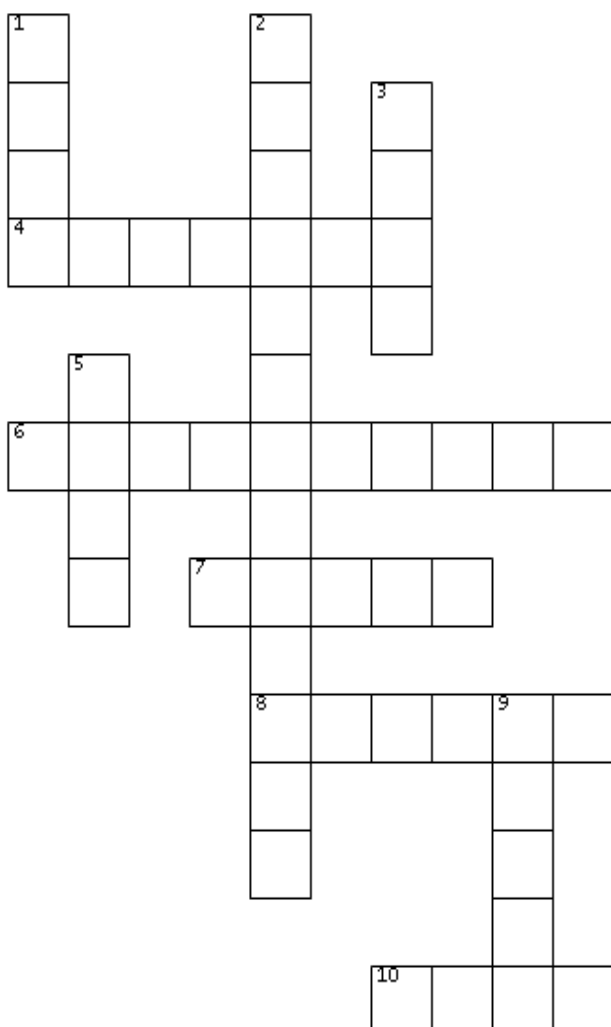
Quiñones and Mendez, both natives of the Philippines, are part of Lorence’s research team whose work regarding heat on rice production was featured recently in the Guardian.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Cherryl Quiñones (left photo) and Kharla Mendez (right) receive their awards from Dr. Dorothea Tholl, president of the Phytochemical Society of North America during the PSNA conference in Blacksburg, Virginia.

This Week’s Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 4. Easily seen, recognized, or understood; open to view or knowledge; evident.
- 6. Cartoon Character: A duck given an official promotion to Buck Sargent and honorably discharged from the United States Army in 1984, as part of the celebration of his 50th birthday.
- 7. A hilly-slope covered with small loose stone.
- 8. The most popular fruit in the world
- 10. A small, slender missile that is pointed at one end and usually feathered at the other. Acronym of NASA’s recent space mission aimed at testing a method of planetary defense against near-Earth objects.

DOWN

- 1. Video Game Franchise: Takes place in the 26th century. Predominately follows the United Nations Space Command’s fight against alien invaders.
- 2. Not complex; simple.
- 3. Not hard or difficult; requiring no great labor or effort.
- 5. A graphic representation or symbol of a company name, trademark, abbreviation, etc., often uniquely designed for ready recognition.
- 9. Animal: the biggest species of cat. Has a bite force of 1050 pounds per square inch.

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