

A-State Theatre presents “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

The Arkansas State University Department of Theatre will begin the 2023-2024 season Sept. 29 with “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.”

The play, written by Simon Stephens and based on a book of the same name by Mark Haddon, follows a 15-year-old boy, Christopher Boone, who discovers his neighbor’s dog after it has been killed with a garden fork.

DayDay Robinson, an assistant professor of theatre, is directing the play. She said this play uses a non-linear structure and uses unique ways of presenting information to the audience.

“It jumps back to the past for him through his memories and the way that he perceives things, as well as what is currently happening with him. There are some dream sequences that happen; so, you can be in

one scene where it seems like it’s the present time and then the following scene is him going through a memory from five years ago,” Robinson said.

She said the play uses a minimal set and uses actors to portray set pieces and props.

“We have six people who make up our ensemble who do a lot of stuff from acting to moving sets to becoming furniture because we’re looking at how Christopher views things. So, instead of having a physical microwave, someone might have their hand out and then open it for him,” Robinson said.

Alex Jones, a senior theatre major from Russellville, Arkansas, plays Ed Boone, Christopher’s father.

“We get to use our imagination a lot. So it’s like, we come to rehearsal every day and it’s something new we get to do every single day,” he said. “We have a very small set and use acting blocks and use ourselves for most of it.”

The play also presents a story within the story as Christopher writes a book about his experience.

Allie Jones, a senior theatre major from Jonesboro, plays Siobhan, Christopher’s teacher and the narrator of the play.

“(Siobhan is) like a secondary mother to Christopher. She really understands him and she’s one of the few people that he trusts and he writes this book and he gives it to Siobhan and so most of the show is her reading the book and you see what he’s written,” she said.

Kaito Ito, a senior theatre major from Tokyo, plays Christopher in the show. He said the character learns a lot throughout the play.

“He likes his own world and he doesn’t like going out, like socializing with other people. But, he decided to go to the big city by himself, because lots of things happened and he grew up through those journeys,” Ito said.

Robinson said none of the

actors ever leave the stage, which makes the ensemble an important part of the show.

Joanna Crites, a first-year theatre and English major from Alma, Arkansas, acts as a part of the ensemble. She plays Voice Five, as well as other small parts.

“Specifically with the voices, we tend to be kind of like his internal monologue which can be hectic and crazy,” Crites said.

Robinson said Christopher thinks differently than most people, but the play does not place a diagnosis on him. The author of the book the play is based on originally gave a diagnosis, but later recalled it.

“It’s just about someone who’s an outsider who thinks differently, who experiences the world differently. It doesn’t make him any less human or any less normal because we are living in his normality,” Robinson said.

She said she believes everyone experiences feeling limited or being an outsider. “To be able to see someone



Photo by Rebecca Worthington | Photo Editor

Kaito Ito (left) and Alex Jones (right) rehearsing.

who gets overwhelmed by things easily and doesn’t always understand how to react to those, be able to explore the world on his own and to tell his own story might encourage people to do the same themselves,” Robinson said.

The director said the show contains adult language and descriptions of animal abuse.

Haley Reed, a junior theatre major from Bay, Arkansas, serves as the

stage manager for the show.

“I really think it’s a family friendly-ish show, probably more on the mature side. But it’s very heartwarming. There are some sad parts in it, but it’s really a good drama piece,” Reed said.

The show will be performed Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 6-7 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 1 and 8 at 2:30 p.m. in the Simpson Theatre. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, but A-State students get in free with their student ID.

THIS WEEK’S POP PICK

ANNA COX | COPY EDITOR

“IT LIVES INSIDE”

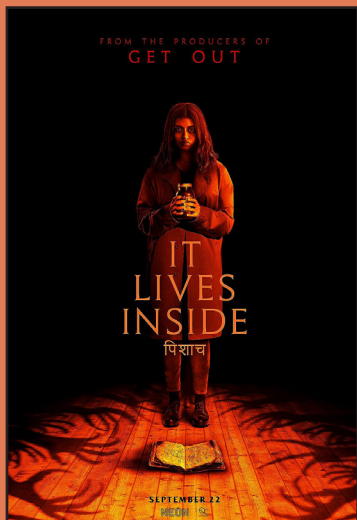


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

“It Lives Inside” brings Hindu demons to the horror scene providing viewers with a new monster to be afraid of.

The thriller surrounds a young Indian-American girl struggling with both her cultural identity and a flesh-eating demon called the Pishach. We follow her through her journey of trying to navigate high school and inadvertently releasing a demon onto herself and others.

The Pishach is a flesh eating demon that infiltrates its victims’ minds to slowly degrade their sanity and connections to others. Its main goal is to bring its victim down mentally to a point their soul can be consumed.

This movie was amazing. I loved seeing a movie that had something different than a devil, ghost or creepy doll. The Pishach was terrifying, not only because it is not fully seen until the ending of the movie but also because it was new. I had no knowledge of it so I had no idea what they could even do to defeat it.

Another strong point of the movie was the acting. Tamira the best friend, played by Mohana Krishnan, and Samidha, played by Megan Suri, portrayed fear extremely well. A lot of the scenes before the demon’s reveal relied on close up shots of their faces and Megan and Mohana did not disappoint. I felt true fear coursing through my body as their eyes became large, as they moved back in fear and as they screamed; none of it seemed fake.

The use of red lighting was also done well. Whenever the characters were around or in fear of the Pishach, they were bathed in red light, adding to the fear of the monster. One of the most memorable moments was after Tamira had been taken and was underneath a cloth. The entire scene is red and watching her face change from confusion to pure horrific fear, added another layer of evil to what she saw.

My issue with the movie is that in the end, once you see the monster, you lose fear of it. I don’t think that the creators tried to not make it scary, there was just something about it that makes you go, “oh that’s not too bad” and come out from under your covers.

Overall, I think the movie is a 9/10 and the open ending sets up an opportunity for a second movie and I hope they take it. It was refreshing to see a horror movie get away from the run-of-the-mill plot and dive into something different for once.

A super graphic ultra modern girl’s review of Chappell Roan’s new album

LUCKY GILMORE

ONLINE EDITOR

Chappell Roan, an up-and-coming pop singer from Springfield, Missouri hosted a RSVP-only show in her hometown on Sept. 20 to showcase her new album, “The Rise and Fall of a Midwestern Princess.”

The show was free for fans who got on the list, though she encouraged donations for a local LGBTQIA+ community center in Springfield.

I attended the concert with one of my close friends, Gabi Orick. She was the person who introduced me to Chappell Roan’s music and got the tickets for us.

There was a line of excited fans dressed up in their favorite Chappell inspired look. We met many people dressed up as magicians from her “Red Wine Supernova” video, neon athletic outfits from “Naked in Manhattan” and an abundance of pink cowboy hats from “Pink Pony Club.” As an avid concert goer, getting in line for the show and meeting all the other fans was one of the most fun parts.

We managed to almost get to the barricade, which for an absolute fangirl like me, was incredible since I could be so close to the woman herself.

Chappell Roan is an avid supporter of drag queens and hired local queens to open the show for her. Three queens opened for her and I was in complete awe. They absolutely worked the crowd and made everyone hyped for Chappell to come out.

After the openers, Chappell Roan came out and I lost my



Photo by Lucky Gilmore | Online Editor

Chappell Roan performing at her album release for “The Rise and Fall of a Midwestern Princess.”

mind seeing her come onto the stage. We were all so excited since we were going to be the first people to hear the new songs on the album.

She opened the show with a few previously released songs, including my favorite, “Red Wine Supernova.” She only added five new songs to the album and every one was amazing to hear live.

My favorite of the new songs to hear live was “Super Graphic Ultra Modern Girl.” She said before singing it she took inspiration from the queer community’s love for hyperpop music to write this song, which was evident.

Another new song that was amazing to hear live was “Coffee.” “Coffee” is a song about being in love with someone who does not feel the same and yet you keep going back. The lyrics and emotion of the song highlighted Chappell Roan’s hauntingly beautiful voice as she felt those emotions while singing live.

We saw the show on Wednesday and the album came out Thursday night. The

high from the concert was still fresh and I was so excited to relive the new songs we heard live from the night before. After listening to the album on my own, I was already excited to go to another show.

“Super Graphic Ultra Modern Girl” and “Coffee” are still my favorites I heard live, but “Picture You” and “After Midnight” quickly rose to my top choices on the album itself.

Chappell Roan put on an amazing show that I would recommend to anyone to go and see and I can’t recommend her new album enough.

Hearing these songs live and then on an album was definitely an exciting feeling. Especially being able to re-listen to the ones I had never heard and have a personal connection with the lyrics I could not make simply because of the excitement of being there live.

Overall, the album release experience, from the live show to the jam session in my car, was an amazing experience I highly recommend.

STUDENT SPEAK: What are your thoughts about Yik Yak?



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Cameron Ambrose is a sophomore exercise science major from Birmingham, Alabama.

Cameron said:

“I don’t use it anymore, it’s very problematic, there’s just not much positive upside for it. It’s just usually just for people to go on there and talk down to other people.”



Photo by Savannah Munkel | Staff Writer

Natasha Bupp is a first-year environmental science major from Memphis, Tennessee.

Natasha said:

“I think it’s a great way for people to express their opinions and share interests. The anonymity gives students the chance to say what they want without judgment.”



Photo by Savannah Munkel | Staff Writer

Travius Callicutt is a first-year psychology major from Marion, Arkansas.

Travius said:

“I enjoy Yik Yak. It is free expression of oneself through anonymous posts, which are, most of the time, very entertaining.”



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

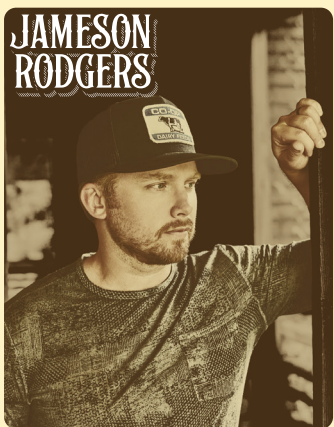
Callie Hogue is a sophomore communication disorders major from Dyersburg, Tennessee.

Callie said:

“To me, it’s just very useless and just kinda stirs the pot for some people who do take it to heart and are very sensitive to those things.”

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SEPTEMBER 29TH - 30TH

DOWNTOWN JONESBORO



STAGE LINEUP

FRIDAY
6:00 - 7:00 West Finch Blues Band
7:30 - 8:30 JB Strauss
9:00 Priscilla Block
SATURDAY
3:00 - 4:00 Native Strangers
4:00 - 4:30 BBQ Awards
4:30 - 5:30 Aaron Headley
6:00 - 7:00 Big Boy Changes
7:30 - 8:30 Shane Proffitt
9:00 Jameson Rodgers



STAGE LINEUP

SATURDAY
2:00 - 3:00 Lan Lew
3:30 - 4:30 Zach Childers
5:00 - 6:00 Akeem Kemp Band
6:30 - 7:30 Greasy Tree
8:00 - 9:00 Tristan Tritt

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Pig out at the A-State Meat Market

BRENNA KELLY

STAFF WRITER

The Arkansas State University Meat Market not only provides shoppers with meat, but also provides funding for the College of Agriculture and gives students experience working in meat processing.

Corey Readnour, an A-State alumnus who specializes in all kinds of pork products, helps teach students in the College of Agriculture in the Meat Laboratory.

“When I was a student, I actually worked in the Meat Lab as a student worker, so I always had that passion,” Readnour said, “Before that, I worked at the university farm. When we went under state inspection, I had the opportunity to renovate the Meat Market and switch roles.”

Readnour obtained his bachelors and masters from A-State, graduating in 2017 and becoming the manager of the Meat Lab in 2018.

This semester, the Meat Laboratory is an elective class with 13 students, where students walk through the stages of meat processing, going from farm to table. Students learn retail cuts, food safety, muscle biology, different recipes and the science side of the butchery process.

“There’s all kinds of different components to it, it’s not just processing meat, but it’s also food safety,” Readnour said. “You always have to think about the product integrity. In the end, our goal is to produce a humane, safe product for the consumer that also tastes good.”

At the Judd Hill Farmers Market, the A-State Meat



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEAT MARKET'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Students working in the Meat Laboratory.

Market sells a variety of beef and pork products, as well as jerky and snack sticks. According to Readnour, their specialty is bratwurst.

The funds raised from the Meat Market go back into the College of Agriculture.

“Our first priority is education. Education is where it all starts,” Readnour said.

Corbin Harrison, a junior animal science major from South Africa, and Dylan Grant, a junior business major from Zimbabwe, work at the Meat Market.

“It’s a job opportunity. We make the actual products. We use a lab with machines that basically do everything from scratch,” Harrison said.

Readnour, Harrison and Grant all agree that the Meat Market is a program that A-State can be proud of.

“One of our biggest things is that we went through the whole process and documentation of the State Inspection of Arkansas. We are Plant 001, so when we process an animal and they inspect it,

they stamp the process with a state of Arkansas Inspection Stamp that says 001. It’s really cool and it’s something that we are proud of as a Meat Market,” Readnour said.

The Meat Market also recently obtained a partnership with Peco Foods, a poultry processing facility that operates out of Pocahontas, Arkansas.

In this partnership, poultry would be processed in the Peco Foods laboratory and then shipped back to A-State’s laboratory for experimentation, whether it be different seasonings, cuts, or casings. Those new products would then be sold.

This way, the Meat Lab can focus on inclusivity, as pork is not something everyone can eat.

While the Meat Market is open most days, selling at the Judd Hill Farmers Market, sales are advertised on their Facebook page and the A-State Daily Digest. The program also does many different events to showcase products, including some consumer panels and taste tests.