



World Premiere of 'Cosmic Theories of a Romantic's Heart'

By Caroline Hoy
Co-Editor in Chief



Brevard College Theatre performed the world premiere of "Cosmic Theories of a Romantic's Heart" by Emily Kitchens. The play starred Anna Ervin ('24), Mickey Lasco ('25), Gabriel Bernhard ('23), Eli Hughes ('24), and Sarah Hajkowski ('23). The play was originally scheduled to finish on Feb. 18-19 but had to be postponed by one week due to sickness among the cast. Despite the change of events, it did not affect the actors' amazing performance in the show.

"Cosmic Theories of a Romantic's Heart" is about a girl called Girl or Earth, played by Mickey Lasco, whom Kitchens forms as both a high school girl and the planet we call home. Girl is a lot like the main character of many young adult novels—almost an "I'm-not-like-other-girls" girl. She has a massive crush on Sun, played by Eli Hughes, and Girl "revolves" around him. But things take a turn when Moon, played by Anna Ervin, comes into the picture as Girl's faithful friend and maybe more. The love story of these three is being created by a dying man, Gabriel Bernhard as Star, who is like the others both a human and a symbol of something greater out in space. More in touch with Star's world is Comet, played by Sarah Hajkowski, who appears every now and then to make trouble or take care of Star.

As stated before, the dates of "Cosmic Theories of a Romantic's Heart" had to push back two of their original dates of the play. When asked about how they felt having the play pushed back, cast and crew members said that everyone was extremely helpful and professional during this process.

They said they were so proud of how everything turned out, and they were happy with

the results. Also, a shout out to the stagehands who worked incredibly hard just like the actors.

This showing of "Cosmic Theories of a Romantic's Heart" by Emily Kitchens was the world premiere which means that Brevard College was the first place to ever hold this play. I asked three of the actors what it was like playing characters in a play at its world premiere.

Hajkowski said, "It was only during closing that I truly realized I had premiered the part of Comet. That being said, it felt like a great privilege to engage with this generous text and character for the first time."

While on the other hand Bernhard said, "There was a certain level of freedom inherent in not having to live up to anyone's predetermined expectations. But largely I approached it just like any other character."

Each of the actors had a different favorite part from this play with Bernhard saying his character, Star, was his favorite. While others like Hajkowski said, "For me, 'Cosmic Theories' highlights the expansive magic of being human and loving in all the ways we can love. High school and coming of age are just as galactic and tremendous in scope and feeling as supernova death and the cosmos."

On the other hand, Lasco said her favorite part was "... when Anna/Moon and I are having our karaoke moment. Anna always makes me laugh and we are always goofing off, so being able to do that in the world of my character and as myself was amazing and so much fun. It allows you to see the real connection between Anna and me." This was also my favorite part of the show. I was dying of hysteria; my sides

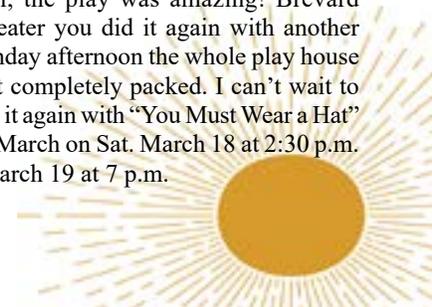
ended up hurting from laughing so hard! When Anna Ervin was asked about her performance in this and how it differentiated from usual acting she said, "It didn't feel different. Part of acting is play. As long as I love what I'm doing, I'll always do it."

All the characters in this play are unique. Girl is your quirky highschooler and Mickey did a great job bringing her to life. When asked what it was like Lasco said, "Girl reminds me of elementary school me on an over-extreme level. She is so innocent and wondrous about life. Girl loves to see new things and explore those things. She has grown up with so much love in her heart that it controls a lot of her decision-making. Her love for others reminds me of a little kid who hasn't grasped the concept of hate yet."

While Girl is this super quirky girl, Comet is a character who mostly acts with their body. When asked what that is like Hajkowski said, "What a rich question! Yes, outside the stage I am sometimes unsure or insecure about movement, so that increased the challenge. Ultimately, I was given safe rehearsal space to explore my instincts and let Comet flow."

Bernhard was asked what it is like playing a dying character, "Dying characters have a sense of urgency to them, yet at the same time a sense of resignation. They can't change their fate, so they need to do everything as fast as possible."

All in all, the play was amazing! Brevard College theater you did it again with another hit! On Sunday afternoon the whole play house was almost completely packed. I can't wait to see y'all do it again with "You Must Wear a Hat" coming in March on Sat. March 18 at 2:30 p.m. and Sun March 19 at 7 p.m.



The Silent Rockstar Vol. 7: Infected

By Isaiah Collison
Copy Editor

Few black spirits are as old as I, The Silent Rockstar. I often wonder how he knows what he knows, but more importantly, why some of you don't know. Better recognize this lingo is based on true events.

Our downfall as African American men started when we boarded the slave ships to leave the Motherland, but declined sharply when we reached the cotton fields. Her branches of love stretched, but we slash Mother Blacktree every time we attack one of her sons. The head of the black family, historically, was to be a black man. This is not true throughout America. The women are the heads; the boys think they are men by the age of "too soon." We have incorrect definitions of heterosexual black manhood due to the lack of proper guidance. We must admit our role models are limited to only a few career options.

Women and babies are to be protected because men are supposed to love too. Leaders lead with love! Black manhood in America is best handled by appropriate men in our lives who themselves were steered correctly, and intend to do that for another young brotha. This has nothing to do with misogyny, I believe God has specific calls for men and women of our community. But the sons of slaves are insane; mommas, aunties, and grandmas have too much responsibility.

Not everyone is built for the same roles in the eyes of God. Whether you believe that or not is completely your right. I realize the men in my life have been Yahweh's blessings. If they had let me fend for myself like many other young black men, I'd- well, I certainly wouldn't be writing for the Clarion. Maybe I'd be spreading poison amongst my community. And out of my natural black mind.

Our self-hate problems started during slavery. The slave master taught us how to hate ourselves! for being black. Even though we're white and black! We're not purely African! Hell, look at me!

Wait, I have to do this for the "smooth"

ones. Everybody prepare to roll your eyes. "My great great granddaddy was smooth he, he was in the bed with massa's wife. That's how I'm so light." No he wasn't. He was held down with the rest of males while the black women were raped to make more slaves. In 1662, Virginia Colony passed a law saying newborns were to immediately have the status of their mothers. But this was directly aimed at those in bondage, a dog whistle to slavery. If your black mother was a slave, you were automatically a slave² is more like it. Rape was legal one way and now we're all related.

Many of us may be scared to admit we live with white blood but reality is plain. Many of our fathers are plain white. Why do you think many brothas abandon children? Slave masters implanted in us looking at black babies is vile. Knowing our children will grow up black is messing with our minds.

Don't retrieve the spades because some of your closest homies can't shuffle! Don't sit around draggin' and duckin' reality.

It's not you against me, brotha man. When are you gonna stop hurting momma? Is it necessary to clapback every time you feel disrespected? I mean, you could just listen and understand. "Ah, I think he's struggling. I'll give him some space." We all have those moments where we feel our "gangsta" is tested. The head users chuckle, the silly haul off and ruin lives with ignorance. Do you know why you react like that? You feel powerless in white America so you take it out on America's Africans.

FLASHBACK GEORGIA, 1841

Massa has all his white friends gathered in the big house. The house cattle walk around serving "everyone." White people everyone. No one can wait for the big fight any longer.

<DING DING DING!>

Referee: Innn this corner, fighting out of Georgia Southern Freedumb Plantation iss Boat Nigra!

Boat Nigra was never taught to read or write. He pulls air triggers at his own temple.



Referee: Innn that corner, also fighting out of Georgia Southern Freedumb Plantation iss Boat Kin!

Boat Kin is illiterate too. He makes finger gestures at his opp.

Massa Instigator: These fools are friends but we make 'em fight, make 'em duke it out, cause they're built like oxen. I've got a feelin', we can make black people think violence is awesome. One day it'll make someone rich out there... Now, you two jigaboos, listen up. Boat Nigra, Boat Kin he'uh, was bad lipp'n your girlfriend. Slapped her on the ass when you was workin' hard.

Boat Nigra: Duh duh?

Massa Instigator: Boat Kin, Boat Nigra disrespect'd youse. He gang-bangs³ a different boat all ovuh this side of the Mississippi.

Boat Kin: Oh ruh?

Massa Instigator: If I was you I'd stomp his ass... yeah, on dixie, fight!

(Insert ignorant black-on-black violence)
<DING DING DING!>

Referee: Holy shit it's the knockout of the century! The betrayal of infinity!!

Boat Kin: Yuhh! I snap't! I knock'd his head off!

Boat Nigra: Duhh... I done went out lika g. Shit style points, on my momma I ain'no hoe...

Massa: Boat Kin, ya big animal, your prize is one jar of honey, two biscuits and a beer. All you have to do is utter what color honey is. Any sound that sounds like a color will do!

Boat Kin: Yeh ruh?

Massa Instigator: Good boy. Hey how'd ya know that color? Ha! Give Massa some dap my- !

The white guests cheered with sophistication but now in the 21st century where blacks want equality, they don't fear reminding us we belong in and on the field. Or, dribbling. African Americans should be daezrheaded why we still believe these careers bring freedom.

END FLASHBACK

If only both of them knew they came over on the same boat. Oh Yahweh, help me help my people to see. For I fear self-inflicted violence

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has 'flooded their minds.

Recently, I watched a lightskin white supremacist promote self hate on social media for his own profit. It is without question, the house negro makes his daddy happy. He loves capitalism and sees it as his way upstairs. For it is fine with him that you are not even inside. He is greedy! Seeing the opportunity he says,

Savage House Negro: "I can get rich off the backs of amateur black boxers. I'm exploitin' like my daddy! Celebrate! Where the white girls at?"

He is worse than a rude traitor, for he has no excuse. His greed shows us there's math in english. After the fight he says,

Savage House Negro: How's it feel to be pickin' fights, big boy? You really pressed his head in!

Headless Boxer: Sometimes I think I can do more with my life-

Savage House Negro: Ahhh! Have a ps5, dog.
My takeaway: Point cool. Yo, the white slave owners planted seeds of infection, so don't

trust a black capitalist. They'll do it to you and sing their captives' excuses.

I ask, "Why you exploitin' me, brotha?" They say, "This is America, man" and "Someone gone do you, why can't it be me?" or "I worked hard for my money" or simply "I gotta eat too." The big house still echoes. Who hears it?

And uhh, if the exploiters can pay you "I done came up" money, how much do you think they made off your back? Most African Americans are infatuated with dead white presidents. Remember who made them rich! Yet they do not believe we are their mental equal! Yes, that includes you savage house negroes.

The Silent Rockstar: Hello? Is anyone there? This tsr. ... Anyone besides the FBI... Please. Calling for even one person to wake up. I guess cointelpro is my only audience.

¹ "Who taught you to hate the shape of your nose, and the shape of your lips? Who taught you to hate yourself from the top of your head to the soles of your feet? Who taught you to hate your own kind? So much so that you don't want to be around each other." -Malcolm X, Police Brutality Speech, 1962

² Partus sequitur ventrem- A legal doctrine mandating children of slave mothers would inherit the legal status of their mothers. Thus, children of slave women would be born into lifelong slavery. Aka, the "Hereditary Slave Law"

³ The hater taught hate that's why we gangbangin'! -"Can't Truss It" by Public Enemy



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Movie Review

'The Maze Runner'

"The Maze Runner" is the first of a movie trilogy that came out in 2014. The main star of the film was Thomas, played by Dylan O'Brien. We start the film with Thomas being lifted up in a cage to this place called The Glade. He has no recollection of who he is or what his life was like before entering The Glade.

Once the lift opens, Thomas looks up and sees a group of young men. While Thomas is getting acclimated with the other inhabitants of The Glade, he is told that everyone there has gone through the same thing, as in not remembering their past life before entering The Glade. He quickly learns that they are surrounded by a literal self-changing maze, and apparently there is no way out, even after being explored for three years by what are called the "runners."

He starts to remember things that the others couldn't, depicting him as "different" compared

to everyone else. Thomas would eventually become a runner while moving up in the ranks among the inhabitants of The Glade.

In general, his was not a bad movie but for me there could have been more done to add to the overall story. We were left in the dark for the majority of the film about what was actually going on. I have seen the sequels and they got more into the backstory while continuing to tell what "The Maze Runner" was all about to begin with. For that reason I have to give it a 3 out of 5 stars. But if you enjoy a story from a post-apocalyptic point of view, then this is the film for you.

—Aaron Butts



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POETRY SLAM
Bill's Boiler House
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Music and the Arts in Dreamwork class goes to Kanuga Conference Center



Photo by Vance Reese

Plant Production students plant plants to sell later in the semester!



Photo by Destini Pettit



Photo by Destini Pettit

Are humans inherently good or evil?

By Savannah Anderson
Staff Writer

A question that has been asked for thousands of years has still yet to be answered and likely never will be. Are humans inherently good or evil? There is no way to prove one way or the other, but I believe that people are born good but are often turned to darkness based on the way they have been treated.

In today's world, there is a lot of "evil" in everyday life. We hear stories about shootings, murders, and terrorist attacks all of the time. It's not often that news outlets cover all the good that happens in the world because it simply isn't as newsworthy.

Everyone makes poor decisions at some point in their life that could be considered to be bad or immoral. That does not translate to them being inherently evil, however. Good people do bad things; that's what makes us human.

People are dealt extremely unfortunate hands which can have way more of an impact on their

character than their actual genetic DNA. If you were raised in an environment where people were violent and treated others harshly, you're going to be more prone to acting the same way.

We are constantly changing and shaping into different people, and the experiences that we live through often make their mark on our personalities. With that being said, just because you weren't given the best hand does not mean that you automatically will spread the toxicity of your upbringing.

People who were raised in a dysfunctional environment often do their best to avoid repeating those conditions. They often want to change those patterns: of abuse, neglect, shame, or whatever it was that had such a negative impact on their lives. Breaking bad family cycles is one of the most impressive things someone can do.

Getting yourself out of a negative and toxic environment is vital to living the life that you want instead of the only life that you know. It's often, although not always, the people who are unable to escape their unfortunate reality that in some ways act "evil."

Choosing who you want to be as a person is the most obvious choice to being exactly who you want to be. You cannot simply hope to be good; you have to work towards it and do things to make you a better person.

So no, people are not inherently evil if you ask me. It is the negative environments in which we were raised that have such an effect on our characters. So before you choose to say something rude to someone, to start rumors, to judge someone, think about the impact you could have on them, and how it makes you look as a person.

