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Review of Bender

Imagine it: six friends all on a road trip with one accident leading to a night of tension and drama. In a nutshell, that is the plot of the play Bender, written and directed by seniors Jack May '22 and Caroline Brink '22. May and Brink have been working on Bender since their freshman year of college, and they are so happy that they could finally put it on for the Denison community to see.

Bender premiered on Wednesday and took place this past weekend with the help of Henry Gamble '24, Meredith (Dith) Ehlers '22, Lauren Ehlers '24 and Morgan Daniels '22, while starting Poppy Boone '22 (Sydney), Tommy Clayton '23 (Parker), Maggie Lamaster '22 (Mae Kelly), Juliet Hurwitz '22 (Hallie), Charlie Smith '23 (Rex) and Mick Smith '24 (Ted). With a range from no acting or theater experience to theater kids in high school, these six students gave a cutting-edge, rich performance portraying the pressures of friendships and internal conflicts in college.

The play revolved around your typical college friend group consisting of all the stereotypes, the stoner, the frat boy, the influencer, the popular girl, etc. but as the story unfolded, you get a glimpse into these character's internal conflicts and realize that they are more than their stereotype, and what is actually preventing them from keeping cool during a stressful car crash is not the crash itself, but rather each of their own insecurities and attachment they have towards their false belief of their niche.

Told through both in-time reality as well creative abstract interpretations of streams of consciousness, all of these characters work through their issues they have with one another and themselves. For instance, Rex, the stoner, chill, go with the flow guy on the surface doesn't take sides with the conflicts. He doesn't get himself involved because he is non confrontational. So to both the audience and the characters, he is the comedic relief, but in reality, he witnesses it all, yet doesn't speak up about the problems in the friend group, nor does he stick up for himself, which gets the whole group in trouble, a reflection of one who potentially cannot put his own needs in front of others.

Overall, the play subverts all of the stereotypes college students can be unfortunately categorized into. Rex is just one example of the complexity each character has. Every student can learn something about themselves from this play, or at least feel some sort of connection to it whether it applies to them, or someone that they know.

Even though this play was not for any of May or Brink's classes, they still brought a meaningful, intellectual play for the Denison community to see. I myself hope that both of them continue to look into writing, for this play really highlighted their talents, and I am glad I got to witness such a compelling story.

-Addy Pittenger, '24

Torria's Top Ten Favorite Things To Do

- 10. Listen to Adrianne Lenker and get sad
- 9. Stretch for five minutes and call it a yoga session
- 8. Have microwave dinner because vegans can't eat on this campus
- 7. Read a book on the quad and hope people think I am mysterious
- 6. Quality Journalism
- 5. Watch a movie just to write a letter box review about it.
- 4. Go thrifting and buy a stranger's used clothes
- 3. Color code my google calendar (Gcal)
- 2. Snap
- 1. Make lists and try to be funny

- Torria Catrone, Vegan.

THINGS THAT TASTE BAD TOGETHER

Beer and Gum

You are out on a Friday night and you are trying to get the good times flowing, but you don't want your breath to smell like actual poop. What do you do? You grab yourself a piece of gum. Fatal mistake. The combo of the beverage of the hops and gum will leave you in shambles. Just tough it out with shit mouth.

Huffman and Curtis

You may have one but you should not have both. Some like to take gamble of both at the same time, but think hot sauce might make it better. It will just leave your next day on the toilet far more spicy.

Cherries and Chocolate

Unpopular opinion but if you eat this combo you are definitely a murderer. You have no feelings for others or yourself. This is a tragic combo only made for super villain origin stories

- Poopy Poop Butt



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