



THE INKWELL QUARTERLY

Wilkes University's Production of *The Crucible*

by Mmachi Dimoriaku

Wilkes University's production of *The Crucible* started off the second half of the 2017-2018 season. *The Crucible*, inspired by the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s, focuses on the inconsistencies of the Salem Witch Trials and how extreme and dangerous behaviors can lead to mass hysteria and the destruction of an entire town. While Arthur Miller based the play on the historical account of the Salem Witch Trials, his main inspiration

When asked about her experience in the show, Maddie Black, who plays Ann Putnam, said this:

How did you prepare for your role?

MB: I prepared for the role by doing a lot of research on Ann Putnam and the real life of the Putnam family and their motives for accusing people of witchcraft.
What did you find?

MB: I learned that the Putnams were one of the main groups of people who influenced the rumors of witchcraft. This makes sense because once someone was convicted of being a witch, their land went up for auction. The Putnams purchased much of this land and their status increased, so to say. This information makes me very suspicious of their reasons for accusing others in their community, but also gives me fuel as an actress to find more motivations behind my character's actions.

How relevant do you find this show to be in today's society?

MB: I find this very relevant in today's society because I feel we all have been in some type of "personal witch hunt." What I mean is, we all have encountered some type of manipulator who has tried to blacken our character to their advantage. Whatever that manipulating force may be, we can relate to John Proctor's struggle to show he is an honest person.

Do you like the show?

MB: I do like the show because it is a universal tale and is real. I remember reading this play in high school and rooting for John Proctor all the way. Even after watching the rehearsals over and over again, I still get heart-broken when Elizabeth lies to protect John's good name, even though in doing so she condemns him accidentally.

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An Actresses take on *The Crucible*,
Sigma Tau Delta update,
Alternative Spring Break in Costa Rica,
Etruscan Press internship,
and many more!

Arthur Miller's

The Crucible



MANUSCRIPT UPDATE

The Wilkes University Manuscript Society will be accepting submissions for the 2017-2018 issue until April 3rd, 2018. Keep an eye out for reading posters as well as for this year's issue, as it will be a special anniversary edition with pieces from past Manuscript publications!

Any additional questions can be sent to the Manuscript Executive Editor, Elyse Guziewicz, at: elyse.guziewicz@wilkes.edu.

Writing Center Hours

The Writing Center, located in the Alden Learning Commons, is open and offering support to student writers across the Wilkes curriculum.

Our Spring 2018 schedule is:
Monday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The Online Writing Center is available at: <http://wilkes.edu/pages766.asp>

For more information, contact:
Dr. Chad Stanley

Allen Hamilton Dickson Visiting Writer Series: Alex Burns

by Erin Michael

Alex Burns of Quintessence Theatre Group in Philadelphia, PA, was the first of three Allen Hamilton Dickson visiting writers this semester. Burns, the Theatre's artistic Director, met with students in a playwriting workshop during Professor Bill Black's playwriting class. The students in the workshop had the opportunity to ask Burns about his work in the theatre and the importance of adapting plays in the twenty-first century. Many of the students in the workshop were Theatre majors, so they asked Burns about the significance of acting in a play that has been adapted from its original form.

After the workshop, the English Department held a dinner for English faculty and invited students in Kirby 108. Burns sat with students during the dinner and discussed immersive theatre, Shakespeare, and elaborated on his work at Quintessence. Faculty that had been to shows at Quintessence took the opportunity to ask Burns about specific staging choices for adaptations of classic plays and how this affected the significance or meaning of the scene. Following the dinner, Burns spoke in the Kir-

by Salon, where Wilkes University students, faculty, and community members were welcomed to attend. A directing class from Clarks Summit College took a field trip to attend the event. During the lecture, Burns engaged attendees with his experiences with Shakespeare and his passion of adapting Shakespeare and other classical plays to enhance their meanings. He discussed Quintessence's all-male productions of Shakespeare comedies and how the male actors enhance Shakespeare's comedic intentions in many of the scenes. Burns showed a slideshow of pictures from the theatre's more recent performances to show attendees the immersive nature of the theatre and the variety of adaptations Quintessence has done.

To close his presentation, he described Quintessence's first musical adaptation, *My Fair Lady*, and how they took on the challenge of taking an abusive mentor-mentee relationship and setting it in the modern world, all while keeping the original music and lyrics by Lerner and Loewe. Burns ended the night by answering questions from the audience.

Welcome to Our New Staff!

Faculty Advisor - Dr. Hamill
Editor-in-Chief - Mackenzie Egan
Assistant Editor - Rebecca Voorhees
Copy Editor - Erin Michael
Layout Editor - Erica Bicchetti

Staff Photographer - Mmachi Dimoriaku
Staff Writers - Megan Stanley, Kelci Piavis

If you would like to submit articles for future Inkwell issues, email Dr. Hamill at thomas.hamill@wilkes.edu or Mackenzie at mackenzie.egan@wilkes.edu

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by Erin

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Sigma Tau Delta Update

by Erin Michael

Wilkes University's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Gamma Alpha, is celebrating its 25th year as a chapter of the English honor society. To mark this achievement, members of Sigma Tau Delta will travel to the annual International Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the end of March. Mackenzie Egan, Elyse Guziewicz, Kelci Piavis, and Erin Michael are representing Wilkes University at the convention.

Sigma Tau Delta has represented the university at multiple university events throughout the semester. Dian Mckinney and Erin Michael represented the department at the Honors Breakfast held for those students who have been accepted to the university, but have not yet committed to a school. Kelci Piavis was a student resource for perspective English majors at the January Open House, attending in-

formation sessions to answer questions about the major at Wilkes. Taylor Balasavage designed t-shirts that will be available to Sigma Tau Delta members and to the entire department. The shirts themselves are from a U.S. Union and non-sweatshop-certified company and will be available to purchase during the latter half of the spring semester.

An Internship with Etruscan Press

by Kelci Piavis

English majors interested in editing and publishing don't have to necessarily go to a different state for an internship. In fact, we have an internship for just that right on campus. Etruscan Press is a non-profit publisher located in Harold Cox Hall and is a partner of the MFA program here at Wilkes University. I have been blessed enough to spend my final semester at

Wilkes interning with these amazing people. Contrary to popular belief, it's not all just getting coffee and mail—I proofread manuscripts and other publications that may be going out; I contact possible blurbers and places for book readings and reviews; I read books and write study guides to be used for them; I do inventory; I get the mail; I sit in on production meetings. I believe

that one fear everyone has when applying for an internship is, "Will I only be doing menial tasks? Will I even get a feel for what this career is like?" I can assure you that with Etruscan Press you will never feel that way. Keep an eye out for them in the future at the Internship and Career Fairs that Wilkes holds—they hold a lot of opportunity right here on campus.

Ask the Editorial Staff:

Is there any book being released in the next year that you are looking forward to?

I can say that one book that was just released I long awaited: *Gregory Orr's A Primer for Poets and Readers of Poetry*. It was just released a month or so ago.

-Dr. Anthony

There isn't one currently
- Mmachi Dimoriaku

I don't have one at the moment

-Erica Bicchetti

The Female Persuasion by Meg Wolitzer

-Rebecca Voorhees

Florida by Lauren Groff
-Erin Michael

The Pisces by Melissa Broder
- Mackenzie Egan

A Continued *IT* Serial

by Kelci Piavis

I will be completely honest writing this article: I have not had much of a chance to read *It*.

I am roughly halfway through, but my final semester along with my internship has made it nearly impossible for me to read leisurely. I know, it's a bummer. I do have a thing or two to say about the book, though. If you have never read a horror novel before, I highly recommend it. Horror movies and TV shows are one thing—they are generally full of jump scares or short bursts of fear. Watching several seconds on the screen is, of course, quicker than reading several pages of a book. When reading a horror novel, though, the horror sticks with you; you read for pages about monsters and ghouls and murderers and deaths, and it sticks. You read for pages about the anxiety Stanley Uris is feeling when confronted with *It*, and when you shut off the lights the kids who drowned in the standpipe, their rot-

ting faces and their squishing steps, are over in the corner of your room smiling menacingly at you... probably. You read about Henry Bowers chasing Ben Hanscom and you can feel the blood running down your own stomach from where Henry Bowers cut you; you are Ben Hanscom, you are Stanley Uris, you are the Losers Club. That is something you don't get from film.

Over winter break I did re-watch the 2017 film with my mother and found some interesting differences that I hadn't noticed before. For example, a lot of the kids' original encounter with *It* are different from those in the book: Ben is scared of *The Mummy*, not the burnt decapitated child; Stan is afraid of the kids that drowned in the standpipe, not the painting in the synagogue; Mike faced a giant bird and his parents are still alive; Richie is afraid of the Wolf Man; and Bill experienced his brother's own photo spewing blood from

the album and speaking. Only Eddie's and Beverly's stories stayed the same—lepers and blood. As someone reading the book now, the changes from book to movie make me wonder why they made the choices they did. For now, I offer the same advice I've offered before: see the movie. Read the book. It is fun and horrifying. Don't worry, no one will judge you if you have to keep the light on at night.



Photo credit: IMDb.com

Fall 2018 Upper-Level Class Listings

Course	Days/Time	Instructor	Room	CRN
ENG 202: Technical Writing	MWF 11:00-11:50	Dr. Kemmerer	BREIS 208	30733
ENG 222: Intro. to Digital Humanities	MWF 2:00-2:50	STAFF	KIRBY 108	30734
ENG 225: Comparative Grammar/DH	TR 1:00-2:15	Dr. Stanley	KIRBY 107	30735
ENG 233: Survey of English Literature I	MWF 1:00-1:50	Dr. Hamill	KIRBY 305	30736
ENG 282: American Literature II	TR 9:30-10:45	Dr. Kuhar	KIRBY 103	30737
ENG 352: Studies in the Amer Novel/WGS	MW 3:00-4:15	Dr. Anthony	KIRBY 108	30738
ENG 392: Senior Projects	TBA	Dr. Anthoy	TBA	30739
ENG 393: Teach English Middle/Sec Schl.	M 6:30-9:15	Dr. Lartz	KIRBY 103	30740
ENG 397: Seminar: Tech of the Book/DH	MWF 2:00-2:50	Dr. Hamill	KIRBY 103	30741
ENG 398: T: Hawthorne & Melville	TR 3:00-4:15	Dr. Kelly	KIRBY 108	30744
ENG 497: Seminar: Tech of the Book/DH	MWF 2:00-2:50	Dr. Hamill	KIRBY 103	30742
ENG 498: T: Hawthorne & Melville	TR 3:00-4:15	Dr. Kelly	KIRBY 108	30745

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by Erica

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by Kelci

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Netflix Original's *Atypical* Review

by Erica Bicchetti

Netflix has surprised us yet again. Just when you thought they couldn't create another remarkable show, they did. The Netflix Original show *Atypical* was created by Robia Rashid and released its first season on August 11th, 2017. Netflix describes the show as "heartfelt" and "quirky," which isn't enough to account for how entertaining it truly is.

Atypical is about a teen boy named Sam who is on the autism spectrum, or "the spectrum" as his friends and family call it. As a teen-

"Whoever said practice makes perfect was an idiot. Humans can't be perfect because we're not machines. The best thing you can say about practice is that it makes...better" - Sam

- *Atypical*

ager, Sam is just learning who he is and is gaining a sense of independence. When Sam meets a girl he likes in high school named Paige, he decides he wants to start dating. Sam is exploring what it means to be "normal." His parents felt unprepared for this moment in his life, but they prove to be supportive in Sam's decision. Along the way, Sam's family continues to make new discoveries about themselves and one another creating ups and downs in their relationships. *Atypical* is not your typical show. It follows the life of an autistic teenager figuring out his life. It portrays the reality of living with someone who is on the spectrum. The show captivates the individual family members' struggle to understand Sam. *Atypical* is infused with humor and compels you to continue watching. It allows someone who

hasn't been around a person with autism the ability to watch how someone with autism may function. Many critics had mixed reviews of *Atypical*, some claiming the show failed to convey the reality of autism.

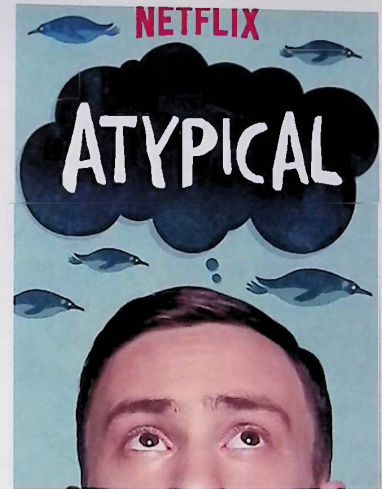


Photo credit: thecentraltrend.com

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An Alternative Spring Break Trip to Costa Rica

by Kelci Piavis

Wilkes University runs a great program called Alternative Spring Break, where students go to another country and do community service as well as learn about that culture. This year there are trips going to the Dominican Republic and to Costa Rica, and this will personally be my second time on the Costa Rica trip.

While the itinerary changes from trip to trip, it always involves community service, cultural experience, and a bit of fun. The trip to Costa Rica this year will start

at Manuel Antonio National Park on the West coast, where there are beautiful beaches and forests to hike in. Then we will make our way into San Marcos de Tarrazú, which is located more toward the middle of the country amid beautiful mountains. We will explore several coffee plantations and discuss the coffee making process as well as Fair Trade, which is important for both human rights and for the environment. Then for our final days we will be building helping the Sports committee of San Marcos paint a

playground and install a sandbox. Since San Marcos is a bit more remote than other areas, it results in a lack of services and extra curricular activities for kids. Helping make this playground perfect for them will be an amazing opportunity.

The Alternative Spring Break trips with Wilkes University are definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I highly recommend them!

(Look out for an after-the-trip update in our next issue!)

Book Review: *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera

by Mackenzie Egan

I do not think that I have ever been so torn up over how to review a book, and will try to remain as unbiased as possible moving forward with this review, as I think it's fair to the author as well as other readers on this site to be as open minded as possible.

I have not read any of Adam Silvera's other books, and based on my experience with *They Both Die at the End*, I am not sure I will ever pick up another one. Silvera, while he seems to be a fully capable writer, left me wanting in ways that I did not find enjoyable in any way as I read through the book, an arc I picked up at BookExpo America2017 after waiting in a line with dozens of other people, namely within my age bracket, who had been anticipating the drop most of all for the better half of the year at that point. A friend whom I had attended BEA2017 with waited for nearly two hours for the book, first in the line for the author signing where she was cut off two people ahead and then at the book drop itself where I joined her. This was the case for many of the people we met in that line. When the book was finally dropped, forty five minutes later, the rush to get out of the way of the people behind us was how I ended up with my own copy in hand, and while it was added weight in my second tote of the day I brought it home nonetheless.

It took me two weeks to get through. In that time I learned how to knit, read an entire manuscript, listened to two and a half audiobooks in full, start a new job,

and do some volunteer work. Had it been any other book, I would have been restless to get back to the pages between its covers (which, by the way, the cover art is really nice); instead, I was dreading picking it back up. Why? Because, quite simply, I found the book incredibly boring.

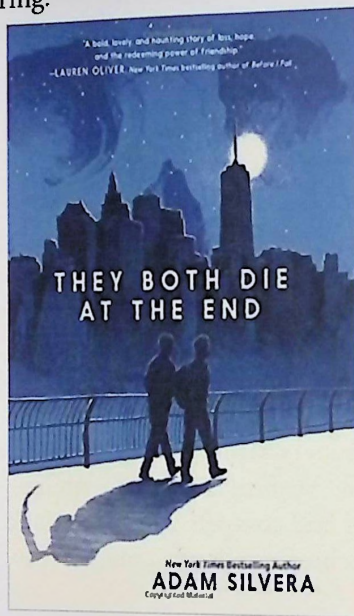


Photo credit: amazon.com

Silvera's idea of Death-Cast, the literally life changing phone system that tells people they're about to die, is a great one, don't get me wrong. I thought that Death-Cast was the only really rewarding feature of the book and wished he would have done more with the idea instead of focusing on the two incredibly boring, stereotypical main characters: Mateo and Rufus. Even Delilah, one of the many subplots within the book, was a better read than the focuses of the book.

Where to start with Mateo and Rufus? Mateo, the typically

introverted do-gooder type that a lot of teenagers today can associate with, was incredibly annoying in his do-gooding and introverting. The kid hardly left the apartment he shared with his widower father before getting the Death-Cast alert, but somehow his best friend is an incredibly gifted chick with a kid. Then, magically, on the day he's supposed to die, he decides he eventually wants to come out of his shell. But it takes hours of precious time wasted for him to find a Last Friend, through an app no less, and actually live what little life he has left. And that living includes burying a dead bird, making sure said best friend and kid are financially stable, visiting his dead mom's grave, and finding out he's into dudes. I understand, to an extent, that each milestone Mateo achieves during his last day is supposed to make him more relatable, more connectable, more capable of pulling on the heart strings of readers, but he's incredibly boring as he does it. Even when he visits his father, who is in a coma by the way, he's ashamed as he's crying over his goodbye.

Rufus, on the other hand, is a contextual pain in the ass. Silvera doesn't make it clear the book takes place in New York City, which led to my confused annoyance, and then irritation, at Rufus' character. At first he comes off as a wanna be bad-ass who's in a gang, and when we meet him he's beating the tar out of somebody and talks weird. Bronx. He's a hundred percent Bronx, but not knowing this from

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out of somebody and talks weird. Bronx. He's a hundred percent Bronx, but not knowing this from the start makes a lot of what Rufus does seem like a ploy from Silvera to just get attention for the character. When I finally pieced it together, with a little help from someone who is much more versed in publishing and Bronx-ness than I am, I couldn't help but be annoyed that he was so stereo-typically Bronx. Then, when Rufus turns out to be an ultra-sweet orphan with a hard shell, two really great friends and one crappy ex-girlfriend, and a heart big enough for a Mateo-sized

chunk to be missing from it, I groaned at the even greater cliches. Now, whether the two fall in love 'cause they're meant to be together or because they're dying isn't for me to speculate, but that little bit of romance almost made up for the rest of the book. Almost. But even romance can't make up for a book full of cliches. Which I found took up more of the book than the fresh ideas, absolutely wonderful when present. But things like Death-Cast, and all the perks and businesses aimed at Deckers (the people who get that phone call), were great and I really wish

that Silvera would have done more with them. I thoroughly enjoyed the glimpses into the Death-Cast worker's lives, and the way Silvera started to alter the backdrop of New York City to fit his idea. If more thought would have been given to Death-Cast, more information and maybe a few more subplots to break up the tediousness of Mateo and Rufus, the book might be a little less monotonous overall. And while the splash of romance was nice, I'm not entirely sure it can make up for the rest of the book's shortcomings.

Senioritis

by Rebecca Voorhees

As a senior, it is pretty easy to lose track of why you chose university in the first place. Four years of academics later, and the excitement you felt when you first walked onto campus kind of wears off. What is meant to be the most exhilarating form of self-conceptualization in your life sometimes turns into solitude. You start showing up to classes a little bit later because you realize that you have never really given yourself the opportunity to mess up (or should I say sleep in). Somehow deadlines for an assignment slowly become better motivators than the long term, but not too far away, commencement.

Jokes of self-deprecation are infectiously hilarious because they have become far too familiar to ignore the truth. If you are lucky enough, you will find the chance to eventually go out with your friends to try and step back from it all. But

when you are finally off campus, you will not even enjoy the time away because the only thing you can think about is the condition of your capstone and a comforting cup of coffee. This, my friends and colleagues, is what upperclassmen like to call Senioritis, and I probably have the most serious case to date.

Don't get me wrong, I am very committed to my work. Being a first-generation college student forces a lot of pressure on myself to do well, sometimes even better than I ever thought I could ever achieve—but when you have been taking more than eighteen credits a semester since the fall of your sophomore year, everything starts to feel more taxing than rewarding. It is probably more difficult to be a student in these last few weeks than it ever will be in my career, and I am not going to let anyone else tell

me otherwise.

Unfortunately, modern medicine has not developed a vaccine or a cure for Senioritis. So I guess this is just a reminder to focus on the little things when you feel like the world is working against you. Like the time my resident asked me to sniff her half gallon of milk because she was too nervous to check it for herself. Or the time that I told the band that I washed my hair in the sink because I didn't have time for an actual shower, and all I saw were smiles of understanding out on the field. It is more than perfectly okay to have days that you don't feel like the chipper freshman you were those short four years ago. I honestly think that best home remedy for Senioritis is remembering that Wilkes has been my home away from home... and always will be.

The Crucible Continued

How was the rehearsal process?

MB: LONG but for a good reason because Jon, our director and teacher, was working to make this show the best it could be. He really did an amazing job.

Tell me about Jon.

MB: Jon is our acting teacher and also teaches classes such as Voice and Diction. Because he teaches classes like this, he not only works to better our skills as actors but also helps to ensure our dialect is accurate to this time period. This is insightful to all of the actors throughout the rehearsal process.

How was this show different from other shows here at Wilkes?

MB: This show was different because it is based on real events. Yes,

Pippin was also based on real events, but that show at least had fun, upbeat musical numbers within it. *The Crucible* leaves the audiences with a sense of Salem's reality of this hysteria in 1692.

What are some of your favorite roles you've played at Wilkes?

MB: Well, I loved playing Berthe, Pippin's grandmother in our production of *Pippin*. Now, though, I am super excited to be playing Val in our upcoming production of *A Chorus Line*! The show is in April and you won't want to miss it!



Photo credit: *The Times Leader*

Netflix Original's *Atypical* Review Continued

by Erica Bicchetti

According to Leslie Felperin's article "What Netflix Comedy *Atypical* Gets Right and Wrong About Autism" she claims a con of the show is "some might still wonder why nearly all characters with autism in film have to be, like Sam, lovable, good-looking, funny ha-ha as well as funny peculiar and, above all, high functioning" adding that

"the series avoids certain cliches yet still falls victim to a certain inauthenticity."

On the flip side, more positive reviews were left on Netflix like one member who noted "loved it! While the series can't possibly show the differences for every autistic child, they certainly nailed it with this particular character. My son

who is on the spectrum has some of the same traits."

Whether or not you enjoyed *Atypical*, Netflix has claimed they will be releasing a second season. Netflix has not provided a release date yet, but it is possible that it will release in August of this year, marking a year since the release of the show's first season.

Keep an eye out in the next issue for:
The final "IT" installment, a Costa Rica trip update, pictures from this year's Sigma Tau Delta convention, our newest department faculty member, course descriptions for next semester, a movie review: "Avengers: Infinity War," and much more!