Drama Club Presents... *Stupid Fucking Bird*

It’s a plane! It’s Superman! It’s… *Stupid Fucking Bird* Spring’s Honors College Drama Club production is Aaron Posner’s 2013 play adaptation of Anton Chekhov’s 1896 *The Seagull*. The dark comedy asks the question: what does art and its interpretation look like for a younger generation in the theater?

Director Rachel Reichard (Art History and Classics) was drawn to the story because it engages a fresh perspective. “When I was first researching plays, I knew I wanted a show that was primarily about young people,” Rachel says, “because we’re at a unique point in our lives.”

Benjamin Freyer (Film) plays Conrad, the show’s central character. “He is very much a cynical character, and he spirals,” Ben says. “There’s a madness in him by the end of the show.”

As Conrad struggles to write a play to engage with what he believes should stimulate contemporary audiences, his friends and family have their own opinions on what art should be. Conrad’s love life is additionally rocky, causing a chain reaction throughout the rest of the cast.

One of these characters is Sorn, Conrad’s uncle, played by Lily Levrault (Math and Computer Science). “Sorn is an old guy who doesn’t understand this world of ‘artists’ but tries to be supportive of his family,” Lily comments.

The production style of this semester’s play is a staged reading.

“When we were discussing what we wanted to do for the Spring show, the idea of that format seemed to fit best,” Rachel shares.

The Drama club also hosts monthly cold reads that are structured similarly. Rachel hopes the staged reading format can continue, eventually spawning two in-person shows in future semesters.

Powerlifting Panthers

Amy Reyes (Biological Sciences) and Ashley Wisneske (Psychology) recently competed at the 2023 USA Powerlifting Collegiate Nationals in Arlington, Texas as part of the UWM Extreme Powerlifting team where they regularly lift more than their own body weight.

Initially, Amy and Ashley joined the team to expand their social life on campus and try out a new hobby.

Little did they know they would be implementing a new lifestyle into their daily routines with a whole new set of friends.

“I feel like I joined a family and a community,” Amy says. “I see the same people at gyms all around Milwaukee.”

Their new community trains together, supports each other, and most importantly competes together.

A powerlifting competition consists of each competitor performing three attempts throughout the day at three different lifts: squat, bench, and deadlift.

Each athlete’s heaviest successful lift per exercise is added towards their final score in order to determine who wins the competition. A win at any smaller competition secures an individual’s spot at the national competition.

Because both Amy and Ashley earned the invitation in smaller competitions, they got the chance to represent UWM in the 56 kg weight class at Nationals.

Both athletes had a successful meet and are satisfied with their performances. Amy placed 12th and Ashley placed 20th out of 52 lifters.

This is Ashley’s first national collegiate competition, and she recognizes a new level of intensity.

“The people at Nationals are all lifting so much weight,” Ashley says. “It’s more than what I have been used to at the high school meets I went to.”

They both hope to be back competing at Nationals next year.