

Presley Vanover / *The Bagpiper*

**SENIOR ISABELLA ARNETT** rides off the stage on Caroline the cow after the song "Dainty June and her Farm Boys."

# *Gypsy* presents rose-colored performance

**Destiny Love**

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Bright marquee lights illuminate the stage in red as FC students prepare for the final musical of the 2019-2020 season. Every few months, the theatre arts program designs and perfects a new production that they perform for local theatre lovers. This time around, they will be showcasing the beloved classic show *Gypsy*.

"This show portrays a toxic relationship between a mother and her two daughters. Each daughter deals with it differently, but it still

affects both of them greatly. Mama Rose, which is the character that I play, compensates for the fact that she started show business when she was too old by striving to make her children stars like she wanted to be," said junior Grace Platt.

So far this year, the theatre program has showcased *Oliver*, *Seussical*, and *Guys and Dolls*, which were successes for the department. With the production of this show as well as the previous of the season, they are continuing the theme of bringing classic shows with a new twist. Senior Taylor Lockhart detailed how *Gypsy* is a show that has remained relevant and stood up to the test of time.

"It's an old one, dating back to 1959 but unlike anything from its period. It's a gem and one that deserves to be seen in my opinion. It's story has captivated audiences for multiple generations. I hope that it will continue to do so for generations to come," said Lockhart.

This show, considering that it is a classic, creates a need for the student actors to develop their own version of their characters. Some difficulty can come with this, especially with the demand of strong emotions and complex relationships from each person.

"The character that I play is Mama Rose. She knows what

she wants and how to get it. She will not stop till she gets exactly what she wants. I have developed this character by watching many different women as Mama Rose and seeing their inflection on her. Also, I have added my own touch to this character. It has been very difficult, but I think that my Mama Rose has definitely developed and come along way since the beginning of rehearsals," said Platt.

Not only does the cast have to develop their characters to match themselves, they also have to pay close attention to how the character is supposed to be portrayed in order to maintain the credibility of an iconic character.

"In the show I play Agnes and Amanda. This character is like a cartoon, so it has been really fun taking her tactics of being a star and putting them way over the top," said freshman Ruby Miller.

Putting on a theatrical performance is time consuming and physically demanding. With hours and hours of dance practices and run-through rehearsals, the actors undergo a lot of stress. However, cast members are motivated by the people who share the same passion as them.

"This has affected me by making me realize how fun theatre is, how if you want to do something, then just go do it. I always thought

theatre was cool, but I never did it because I was worried about being on stage, but now I'm really enjoying actually being in it," said junior David Collins.

Physical exhaustion impacts more than just the body. The vocal cords are also heavily affected when they are used as often and as strongly that a performance demands.

"Vocally, this is probably the hardest female lead in any musical. I have had a really hard time trying to figure out how to save my voice, so I don't strain it. Also, the acting in the show is very real and intense. I remember during the rehearsal process, [junior] Mary Ficker, who plays Louise, was rehearsing a very intense and emotional scene. The scene ended with us both in tears because we were so drawn into the story and into the scene. It was something that I have never experienced before. I don't think I have ever been that invested into a scene before," said Platt.

Each show that the theatre produces, there is an overall message for the audience to discover and learn from. There are many powerful messages displayed throughout *Gypsy*.

"This show is different than most musicals, especially ones from the same time era because it is not a love story. It is centered on a story of a relationship of children with their mother. I hope some of the parents in the audience realize how much their actions affect their children. A large theme in the show is how much parents can think they are doing the right thing for their children, but how easy it can be to hurt their relationship," said senior Sydney Walters.

This will be the last musical that FC's theatre seniors will perform during their high school careers. After four years and several shows, the curtains are starting to close.

"This past year I've done *Oliver*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Seussical* with *Peter and the Starcatcher* on the

way this May, but *Gypsy* is the first show this year that I've gotten to work with a character that wasn't in some way larger than life. I got to do a little bit with *Guys and Dolls* but that show was itself larger than life. I enjoy that. I do enjoy playing energetic characters with big expressions and emotions but I also like playing more realistic characters as well," said Lockhart. "*Gypsy* allows me to end my senior year with a well rounded list of roles from comedic to dramatic to a lot of areas in between. Not everyone gets to do that and I'm incredibly thankful that I've been given the opportunities I have."

*Gypsy* has a lot of grand moments throughout the show, this is what keeps this old show a favorite amongst theatre lovers.

"My favorite moment in this

"It's story has captivated audiences for multiple generations. I hope that it will continue to do so for generations to come."

**Taylor Lockhart**  
senior

show is probably the song "Rose's Turn." It is one of the most iconic songs in the show. I have spent hours and hours trying to perfect this song and I think it's finally coming along. I've spent so long trying to get the right in flexion and vocal sound. It has been very hard, but it is the best song in the whole show. Rose is all alone on stage singing her heart out while having a mental break down at the same time. It is one of the most interesting moments in the show," said Platt.

Acting requires the ability to convince the audience that they are truly feeling the emotions that they are expressing. However, sometimes the show does have a personal,

emotional impact.

"This show has been really emotional down to the core, so it has been really cool to observe the arch of the characters like Rose and Louise and it takes everyone to help them reach that arch, so it is a lot of teamwork and character analysis," said Miller.

In order to finalize and perfect a performance, the entire cast, tech crew, and directors have to be able to come together with equal effort and motivation to make the show what it is.

"The cast of this show has been fantastic! I can not think of any other group of people I would want to do this with. When the announcement came out that we were doing *Gypsy* I knew that it was a show that fit our department very well and each person in some way embodies the character they play," said Lockhart. "Mary brings a nice childlike innocence to Louise, Isabella brings a fiery and vibrant personality to June, and Grace rivals even some of Broadway's best alumni with her performance as Rose. Absolutely breathtaking. I feel I can confidently say it is the best performance I have ever seen on a stage."

After months of preparation for this performance, the cast and crew finally get to showcase this rose of a show.

"I hope audiences leave this show feeling a variety of emotions. We're taking them on a vast journey that we hope they'll become invested in," said Lockhart. "It's a big show that's maybe a bit more advanced than what a high school would typically do and I personally hope that audiences leave with a sense of having seen something incredible, because I feel that there's a lot of things my fellow cast members are doing that is incredible. Mostly though, I hope that the audience leaves with a new found love for *Gypsy*."



Sam Haney/ The Bagpiper

## Showtimes

**Friday, March 6 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 7 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 8 @ 2 p.m.**

**Friday, March 13 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 14 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 15 @ 2 p.m.**

## Ticket Prices

**Students: 6 dollars**

**Adults: 12 dollars**

**Seniors: 10 dollars**

**Source: FC Theatre Arts**