

Review

A comprehensive review of “around the world”: Is it worth all of the hype?

ROHAN ARORA
Asst. Opinion Editor

“Around the world” is considered by most Denisonians as the premier party night of the fall semester. Aside from D-day, it is the only day that you can expect the majority of the student body to put their work aside and pick up their natties’ and beer bong and get to slammin’.

The anticipation had been building the whole week, and especially since Friday, its original intended date. Most of the pre-games started around 9 p.m. that night,

and the majority of registered parties were opened to the public between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. There were definitely more open parties than any other night, and there was a proportionally greater amount of people shuffling around East quad too.

The ‘rules’ for around the world are pretty simple: every registered party, typically hosted by sports teams and fraternities, has to pick a country as a theme, and base their party’s décor on their respective themes. The guidelines are easy enough and have the potential to create a night of border shattering proportions, when done right.

I could not help but get the feeling, however, that a good portion of the registered parties did not even care at all about their themes. For a few parties, there was no clarity as to where exactly I was supposed to be. This is not really a big deal in the grand scheme of things, but if this is really a ‘huge’ and ‘unique’ party night as everyone claims it is, I would expect some sort of adherence to the overarching narrative for the spirit of the occasion. It honestly just felt like any other night, with some parties having loosely themed props and drinks.

My biggest complaint about the night was, despite it being propagated as

its own unique night, it proved to be indistinguishable from any other night out with friends. Sure, beaver beach was more packed than I have seen it (at least this year) but it all still wrapped up by 1, and did not seem to carry any ‘special’ undertones.

To be fair, it wasn’t a bad night considering the school has a total of 2,400 students. For perspective, some dorms at Big 10 schools hold upwards of 3,000 students. If you’re up against that, Denison parties have no hope. As far as Denison goes, for the number of students and the authoritarian time restrictions set forth by administration, it was a solid 7/10.

Photo Essay

Swasey Chapel comes alive with music at the Vail Series



Taylor Kern/The Denisonian

The musician quartet play in Swasey Chapel on Thursday, October 3, 2019 as the pews are filled with onlookers.



Taylor Kern/The Denisonian

Pictured is a view of the four Vail Performers from the balcony.

Review

If Beale Street Could Talk resonates rather deeply with viewers

DEVIN MEENAN
Arts & Life Editor

When a film wins as much popular and critical acclaim as Barry Jenkins’ *Moonlight* did following its release, the next work is inevitably going to be hotly anticipated. Jenkins’ follow-up to *Moonlight* turned out to be an adaptation of James Baldwin’s 1974 novel *If Beale Street Could Talk*, released in theaters last year and screened by DFS this past weekend.

Does the film live up to *Moonlight*? While I didn’t find myself as invested in *Beale Street*, neither when seeing it during its theatrical run or revisiting it at the DFS showing, it’s still quite an impressive work, with a formalistic style that continues to show Jenkins’ distinctive eye behind the camera.

Set in the New York City of the

bygone 1970s, *Beale Street* is a love story focusing primarily on Clementine “Tish” Rivers (KiKi Layne), Alonzo “Fonny” Hunt (Stephan James), and the trials the pair face over the course of their tragic romance; Fonny is framed by an antagonistic beat cop for a rape he didn’t commit, and shortly after her lover’s imprisonment Tish discovers she’s pregnant. As such, the drive of the film is naturally a desire to prove Fonny’s innocence, but the film resists telling the story in such a straightforward manner.

The narrative employs a non-chronological, vignette-like structure, flashing between scenes from Tish and Fonny’s courtship to the grim present they now face; the overall effect when watching the film is a memory-like sensation, like that of

recalling better days. This structure also allows for the supporting cast to all put in brief but memorable appearances; some of these supporting players include Diego Luna, Pedro Pascal, Dave Franco and perhaps most memorably, Brian Tyree Henry as Fonny’s recently paroled friend Daniel.

This isn’t to discount the strong lead work of Layne and James’, however. A recurring visual motif, that of cuts between centered close-ups of Tish and Fonny, seeming to stare at us but in truth at each other, perfectly encapsulates the shape the pair’s relationship: forever longing for each other in spite of circumstances outside their control separating them. The beautifully melancholic score underlying the imagery only bolsters the sense of longing.

Generally speaking, *Beale Street* isn’t as raw a film as *Moonlight*, and so I wasn’t quite as emotionally invested. One area the film is arguably even sharper than *Moonlight* is its political consciousness, which is no small feat.

Despite the story’s 1970s setting, which Jenkins meticulously recreates, this story about America’s often backwards-named justice system resonates just as strongly today as when James Baldwin puts his words to page nearly 50 years ago.

The final scene consists of Tish visiting Lonnie in prison with their son in tow; this already heartstring-pulling sight is followed by Samuel Francis Smith’s anthem “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” playing over the film’s title card and then credits, escalating the story’s tragedy with dark, bitter irony.

Review

Bojack Horseman graces the stage for the first time

LAURA LAPHAM
Arts & Life Editor

For the 89th season of the Denison University Theater and the 1st performance in the new Eisner center, the production is not your typical performance.

The Denison Department Theater is running their first show in the new Michael D. Eisner for the Performing Arts this fall. The Bojack Horseman the theatrical performance. This show centers around the washed up celebrity, and his life choices.

The performance focuses on the episode "The Best Thing That Ever Happened" by Katy Purdy produced by Michael Eisner Productions and the Tornante Company. This performance is in honor of Micheal D. Eisner.

Bojack Horseman, a horseman and resident of Hollywood. The show follows the life of the cynical celeb, Bojack Horseman, and his self-destructive behaviors and life. The show is a *Netflix* favorite and is very popular.

The theatrical performance follows an episode of the Bojack Horseman *Netflix* show making it a short theater performance of only 40 minutes including an opening introducing the show. The show follows a night out for dinner between Bojack Horseman and Princess Carolyn and the emotions that they express and the hijinks that ensue.

The cast of the show consists of Aidan Iannariono as Bojack Horseman, Jordan Zelvin as Princess Carolyn, Talia Zeiger as The Business Donkey, Gwenyth Cain as The Young Donkey, Cameron Williamson as The Barfly Possum, Lily LeVanis as The Critic Earthworm, Madison Gordon as the Lady in the stall, Elliot Hornville as Sandro, Adam Frost-Venrick as The Waiter,



James Hale/University Communications

Aidan Innarino '20 as the titular character, Bojack Horseman, and Jordan Zelvin '21 as Princess Carolyn stand onstage as their shadows represent their characters in the show.

Madison Gordon as the Velvet, Destiny Mack as the Presenter, Jacob Gunther as Bojack's Shadow, Margaret Melich as Princess Carolyn's shadow, William Main as The Business Donkey's Shadow, Jon Powell as the Young Donkey's shadow, Ali Nauen as the Barfly's shadow, Zach Demet as the Critic's Shadow, and Elliot Hornville as the Valet's shadow.

The performance in a unique one for the performer and the audience. Adam Frost-Venrick '21, a theater major and an anthropology sociology minor from Columbus Ohio, said, "This performance was an absolutely fantastic experience. It gave me an appreciation for being part of a team. It made me feel like I was part of something bigger because we are working in this wonderful legacy. It is not like we are eating the whole cake, but just

a part. Bojack horseman is a temembalsy important show for ne. This episode is important to me. If has helped me to better realize myself as a performer and as a person" Elliot Hoinville '21 described the experience as "alot of fun with a chill group of performs through making this show we have gotten close in as way that I hope is viable of stage."

The performance was also a wonderful experience for the audience Micheal D. Eisner himself had to say kind words about the performance. "Very good. It is very hard to adapt a television show to the stage, so they did a great job." The show was a unique experience as an animated series episode put on stage as a performance. Other people who worked on the performance found it unique as well. Camron Alten-Dunkle '21, a history

and psychology double major from Columbus, Ohio, had something to say about working backstage on Bojack. "It was challenging to put on this play as the very first main stage show in the Eisner Center. We had to negotiate our yet incomplete understanding of the new space with the show's very specific technical needs. Everyone on and off stage worked exceptionally hard to make it happen."

BojackHorseman is a unique experience for the audience as an animated episode of a netflix show put the stage in theater. The unique way of portraying the characters is fascinating and a wonderful experience. The last performance is On the 16th at 8:00, so if you are still interested in seeing Bojack Horseman on stage, now is your chance.



Photo courtesy of University Communications

Talia Zeiger '21, Gwenyth Cain '22, Aidan Iannarino '20, and Jordan Zelvin '21 perform in Denison's own rendition of the Netflix show Bojack Horseman.

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DENISON




First Day of Mindfulness celebrates the hill's community

SANAYA ATTARI

Arts & Life Editor Emeritus

In today's stress-driven work culture, it's no surprise that many college students are having a hard time caring for their emotional well-being. In light of this issue, Denison University hosted a Day of Mindfulness to allow students a day off from prior commitments to take some time out for themselves.

The event was hosted on Saturday, October 12, from 12 pm to 7 pm. It was organized by Elizabeth Toigo '20, a psychology major with a neuroscience concentration from Loveland, Ohio, who believes that mental health is a college-wide epidemic that has not only plagued the Denison community but other college communities around the country as well.

"This day was about the Denison community coming together and learning mindful strategies to help combat their mental health struggles, both on campus and beyond. I was able to witness students taking the time to do something for themselves, which many of us forget to do with our seemingly endlessly busy schedules," says Toigo.

After sharing her own mental health issues, Toigo teamed up with University President Adam Weinberg, certain academic departments, student groups, therapy dog volunteers, varsity coaches and more to provide Denison with an opportunity to come together and support one another with mental health struggles.

The day began at 1 pm with an opening ceremony at Swasey chapel,

featuring a live performance by the Hilltoppers and a welcoming speech by Dr. Laurel Kennedy, Vice President of Student Development. Participants were then given free t-shirts and a schedule with a list of events taking place around campus. Every hour, there would be five to eight different activities hosted by student organizations or faculty members, where participants could choose which event to attend based on personal interests.

"After participating in some of the activities, I felt at ease and more relaxed than before. I hadn't realized how much I needed this time to reflect on myself and my current state of mind," says Adrianna Culotta '20, a French and international studies double major from Baltimore, Maryland who partook in the Day of Mindfulness along with many others on campus.

Some of the activities included a meditation practice over green tea with President Weinberg, painting the graffiti wall with the student art collective, and cooking classes with the culinary club. Around 4 pm, folks gathered at Swasey Chapel for Stories of Resilience, an event where student volunteers read stories submitted anonymously by members of the community on facing mental health issues and their battle against it.

"I was able to see students interacting with others from the Denison community that they may not have otherwise met, and form a bond with them as they worked together to reflect on their own stories. I saw students be brave, courageous and curious throughout the day as they

began to capture what mindfulness truly is. That is why the day was a success," says Toigo.

When students are given a space to have insightful discussions on self-care and mental health, it encourages

them to tackle these issues in a healthy and refreshing way.

As a community, it gives people an outlet to let go of their worries and reassures them that they are not alone in this fight.



Sanaya Atari/The Denisonian
Dr. Laurel Kennedy gives the Day of Mindfulness kick-off speech on the stage of Swasey Chapel.



The Hilltoppers perform at Swasey Chapel during Denison's Day of Mindfulness. The Hilltoppers are the male a cappella group here at Denison.

Sanaya Atari/The Denisonian