

DO! ABILENE

Theater

Watch one-act plays at ACT

Abilene Community Theatre is trying something new next weekend.

It's "An Evening of One-Acts," which will be presented three times.

Four one-act plays will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20 and 21, at ACT, 809 Barrow St.

The plays include "Superhero Support Group," about a bunch of superheroes and a doctor who can change their lives; "The Philadelphia," about a man stuck in a Twilight Zone-type state; "Le Pigeon Aux Petits Pois," a living-room caper

revolving around the Pablo Picasso painting of the same title that was stolen and never recovered; "The Indian Wants the Bronx," about a man from India, newly moved to New York, and two punks who harass him. Tickets cost \$15 for

adults, \$12 for seniors/active-duty military/students.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, call the ACT box office at 325-673-6271 from 1-5 p.m. weekdays.

Janet Van Vleet

“The play sounds dark and serious. It's not a musical comedy. But there are some humorous moments.”

Barry Smoot, Paramount Theatre artistic director

BULLIES

from 1B

McCarthy told him he was crazy, but set it up, Walsh said in a phone interview from Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is now an admissions officer at Harvard University.

Walsh joined a middle school class and sat in the back of the room for a couple of weeks. Then, the teacher turned the class over to Walsh, telling him, "You're the drama teacher now."

"Nine months later, we had a show," Walsh said. "The kids were wonderful."

The play was conceived and written to be performed by middle school students for middle school students.

The HSU production will be a bit different.

Walsh and Smoot have been in contact, and rewrites and adjustments are almost a constant process. Walsh said that after a conversation with Smoot last weekend, an entire song was removed from the show. He said it was the right decision.

"It was great to work on it with him," Smoot said. "He's very open and a really talented writer."

Smoot and his cast have been working hard to take "Bullies" from a workshop piece to a fully staged musical.

"The cast of 13 never leaves the stage," Smoot said. "The set is very stark." Thirteen wooden chairs are used throughout the play as props for the actors.

Instead of the original middle school setting, the play now is set at a prep school, complete with preppy blazers. This makes the characters older and means that they won't be judged by what they are wearing.

The music includes pop, rap, rock and Broadway-style tunes.

Two bullies roam the halls of this particular prep school. Each has a specific target, who is picked on constantly.

Senior Branden Loera takes on the role of Brady Barlow, a bully. Bringing a character to life, especially a bully, can be a challenge.

"It's really hard not to go the clichéd route," Loera said. "It's a good experience."

The path of a bully often can be traced to his home life, as it is in the case of Brady. His father berates him and talks down to him, which Brady turns around and does to his victim.



THOMAS METTHE/REPORTER-NEWS

Hardin-Simmons University freshman Fabian Carrisalez plays Joshua, a target of bullying, in the HSU production of "Bullies." The play opens Thursday in the Van Ellis Theatre on campus.

"I don't think he gets any joy in it," Loera said of his character.

Freshman Fabian Carrisalez plays Joshua, Brady's victim. But Joshua isn't the typical victim, according to the young actor.

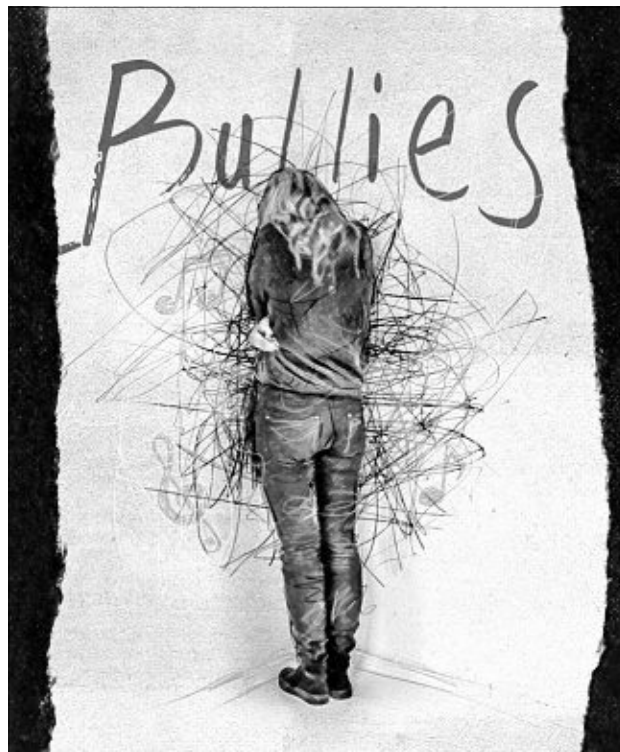
"He's actually outgoing and likes to be around people," Carrisalez said.

He said he was able to pull from his own experiences as a child to breathe life into Joshua. He was raised by a single mother and got picked on a lot.

"I was always nice," Carrisalez said. "I always hid my anger inside. I take all those thoughts onstage."

The subject matter might feel heavy, but there's more to the show than that.

"The play sounds dark and serious. It's not a musical comedy," Smoot said. "But there are some humorous moments."



Poster for the Hardin-Simmons University musical "Bullies."

And even more ...

ART FILM

The Center for Contemporary Arts, 220 Cypress St., will screen an episode from the PBS series "Art in the 21st Century" from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday. In "Legacy," artists use their life experiences and family heritage to explore new aesthetic terrain. Bring a brown bag lunch and join the discussion. Free admission. For more information, contact 325-677-8389 or www.centerarts.com.

SCULPTURE RECEPTION

Hardin-Simmons University's Ira M. Taylor Memorial Art Gallery, 2341 Cedar St., will have a reception for Stephen Watson from 5-6:30

p.m. Thursday. Watson's sculpture exhibit closes the same day. Free admission. For more information, call 325-670-2223.

TEXAS WATER ISSUES

The Grace Museum, 102 Cypress St., will host Todd Caldwell, a researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, as he delivers a talk on "Texas Droughts and Floods" from 6-7 p.m. Thursday. Caldwell is a research associate at the Bureau of Economic Geology, a unit of UT's Jackson School of Geosciences. Free admission. For more information, call 325-673-4587.

BOTTLES AND BRUSHES

The Grace Museum,

102 Cypress St., will present the art class "Bottles and Brushes" from 6-8 p.m. Thursday. Participants must be at least 18. Supplies will be included. Participants are invited to bring their favorite beverage (ice and cups provided). Paid registration required. Admission is \$20 for museum members, \$25 for nonmembers. For more information, contact 325-673-4587 or www.thegracemuseum.org.

JOYFUL BLUES

The Happy Fat & Co. Band will perform at the Neon Parrot Lounge, 173 Pine St., from 7-10 p.m. Thursday. Tickets are \$7 each. For more information, call

325-701-9996.

LIVE MUSIC

Country singer/songwriter Granger Smith will perform at Ray's Bar & Dancehall, 1850 S. Clack St., at 10:30 p.m. March 20. Admission will be \$12 in advance, and \$15 at the door. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact 325-704-2510 or www.raysbarabilene.com.

COUNTRY SHOW

Country artist Aaron Lewis will perform at 8 p.m. March 20 at The Silo, 5477 S. Seventh St. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 325-260-1362 or visit www.thesilolive.com.

Music

iTunes' official music charts for last week

Albums

1. "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" **Drake**
2. "Fifty Shades of Grey (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)" **Various Artists**
3. "Piece by Piece" **Kelly Clarkson**
4. "Dark Sky Paradise" **Big Sean**
5. "Wilder Mind" **Mumford & Sons**

Singles

1. "Uptown Funk" **Mark Ronson (feat. Bruno Mars)**
2. "Sugar" **Maroon 5**
3. "Love Me Like You Do" **Ellie Goulding**
4. "Thinking Out Loud" **Ed Sheeran**
5. "All Day - Single" **Kanye West (feat. Theophilus London, Allan Kingdom & Paul McCartney)**

Live on stage

If you're a musician who has a gig, or you're a venue owner who has a musician playing, send us your information. It's FREE to be listed here, but we can't tell everyone who's playing if no one tells us.

Send your gig information to publishme@reporternews.com; via fax to 325-670-5242; or via mail in care of the Reporter-News, 101 Cypress St., Abilene, TX 79601.

Deadline is one week before publication.

ABILENE

■ Abilene Seafood Tavern, 1882 S. Clack St. Clayton Stewart, 9:30 p.m. to midnight Thursdays. The Skunx, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays. The Modern Gentlemen, 9:30 to midnight Mondays. Kirk House, 9:30 p.m. to midnight Tuesdays. Wes Herode, 9:30 p.m. to midnight Wednesdays.

■ Ball Ranch, Highway 83-84 (2 miles south of Abilene Regional Medical Center). Chuck-wagon supper and Old West songs, 7-9 p.m. Saturday.

■ Cypress Street Station, 158 Cypress St. "Piano Man" Mike Schuler, 6-10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

■ Don Luis' Mexican Cafe, 3370 N. First St. Dulcimer Divas, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday.

■ Firehouse Bar & Grill, 2074 Butternut St. Tony Barker, 4-7 p.m. Sunday.

■ Heff's Burgers & More No. 1, 3374 Rebecca Lane. "Piano Man" Mike Schuler, 5-8 p.m. Wednesday.

■ Legacy Bar, 3450 S. Clack St. Vincent Allen Dawson, open mic, Wednesday.

■ Little Italy, 1417 S. Danville Drive. Dan Mitchell (acoustic), 6-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

■ Long Branch Saloon, 3525 N. Sixth St. Happy Fat, 9 p.m. Thursday.

■ MCM Eleganté Remington's Lounge, 4250 Ridgmont Drive. Vincent Dawson, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Fraid Knot, 9 p.m. March 20 and 21.

■ Monks Coffee Shop, 233 Cypress St. Open Mike Night, 9 p.m. Thursday.

■ Ray's Bar & Dancehall, 1850 S. Clack St. JB and the Moonshine Band, Friday. Granger Smith, March 20.

■ The Silo, 5477 S. Seventh St. Curtis Grimes, 8 p.m. Saturday. Aaron Lewis, 8 p.m. March 20.

■ Whitten Inn 80 Proof Lounge, 840 E. Highway 80. Jhon-AleX, 9 p.m. Fridays.

OUT OF TOWN

ANSON

Anson Opera House. 1104 11th St. Country musical, 6:30 p.m. March 21.

BUFFALO GAP

Old Steak House. Dance, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday (no smoking/alcohol).

CLYDE

Pizza House, South I-20 Access Road. Denim and Lace, 6-8 p.m. Friday and March 21.

MCCAULLEY

Community Center. Musical, 6:30 p.m. Saturday (all ages).

MINGUS

Mule Lip Bar. C.B. Sutton and the Outcast Band (country), 5-9 p.m. Sundays.

OPLIN

Grand Ole Oplin. Midnight Blue, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Friday and March 20.

STRAWN

Civic Center, 301 E. Housley St. Country/western/bluegrass/gospel musical, 6 p.m. March 21. Donations benefit Meals on Wheels.

SWEETWATER

VFW Post 2479. Mike and the Last Call Band, 8 p.m. Saturday, \$10. Shady Mitchell, 8 p.m. March 21, \$10.

KARAOKE

■ Buffalo Wild Wings, 4401 Ridgmont Drive. The Party Doc, 9 p.m. Wednesdays.

■ Chelsea Street Pub, 4310 Buffalo Gap Road. Sundays.

■ Firehouse Bar & Grill, 2074 Butternut St. Mondays.

■ The Hideaway, 1021 N. Mockingbird Lane. Wednesday through Friday.

■ The Longbranch, 3525 N. Sixth St. 8 p.m. Thursdays.

■ MCM Eleganté Remington's Lounge, 4250 Ridgmont Drive. Thursdays.

■ Shooters, 1021 N. Mockingbird Lane. Karaoke, Thursdays.

■ Western Edge, 1841 S. Treadaway Blvd. Karaoke, 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday.

DARTS

Cabo Billiards and Sports Bar, 1874 S. Clack St. Blind-draw tournament, 8 p.m. Thursdays.