

Amber Montoya

HUM 104

Dr. Lipsker

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Campus Commentary 3

'OMG We Ate a Guy' Screenplay

OMG We Ate a Guy was a sit-down reading written by Andrea Staats and directed by Glynnis O'Donoghue. It was shown from March 2nd to 9th at the Barber Theatre here at Davidson. The characters were played by fellow Davidson college students and it was acted out and read aloud while the actors sat down/stood in place. It follows a group of young Mormon women from Brigham Young University after they get stranded in the woods and Shawntelle accidentally kills a guy (Brett). The main cast consists of Shawntelle, Timberlee, Kendall, Raegyn, Spencer, Ramona, Brett, Aubrey, and Orson. On a trip, Shawntelle, Timberlee, Spencer, Ramona, Raegyn, and Brett, all get stranded in the middle of the woods. While Brett and Shawntelle go off to find someone to help them, Brett sexually assaults Shawntelle. Shawntelle in return, stabs Brett and kills him. One by one, the girls reunite and Shawntelle notifies the other girls that she has killed Brett. In a daze, the six girls decide to eat Brett to hide the evidence of his murder, and to satisfy their hunger after being stranded. Their plan goes well until their dinner the next day, where Brett comes back to haunt them. Unaware of how to get rid of Brett's new poltergeist form, the girls must think outside of the Mormon teachings to get rid of him.

The show was satirical and engaging despite dealing with heavy topics such as murder, sexual assault, religion, social norms, and racist stereotypes. It wasn't my first time watching a theatre show that critiqued social issues in this way. However, it did impact me hard considering

that the initial advertisement did not mention of sexual assault, sexism, or LGBTQ characters.

I'm not much of a theatre enthusiast, but it was engaging to see the way everyone's stories were interwoven together and in the end the young women were able to keep their identities as Mormon girls and friends while facing their problems. Their problems were faced in a delicate and witty way, demonstrating how severe religious guilt and patriarchy can make them become. It was most shown with Shawntelle not being able to speak on her sexual assault until she told her friends about her murdering Brett. And through the homophobia that pressured Spencer to be skeptic about homosexuality, despite having a crush on Ramona.

I believe the goal of the sit-down comedy was to critique social issues that people face whether in religion or society in a way that made it less difficult of a pill to swallow. For example, Spencer, a woman, is dealing with having romantic feelings for Ramona, another woman, in a negative way due to her religious upbringing, and as a result would express her internal homophobia by consistently trash talking homosexuality. It was a deep critique about the repression and self-deprecation the LGBTQ may face when growing up with a religious authority dictating their lives. However in the play, the other Mormon women catch onto her repressed homosexuality and debunk the notion that she is sinning for simply being in love. She is essentially "liberated" from an archetype she had to be while trying to get rid of Brett and "liberate" him from the current world. In the process of getting rid of Brett, all the girls liberate themselves from religious guilt and patriarchal expectations as they get rid of Brett.. It's almost like a double process, and they get to know themselves better the more they try to get rid of Brett and bond with one another.

Art is powerful, and it definitely showed here in this playwright seeing as the critique was smoothly inserted. I do believe the play-writer was successful in accomplishing their goals. It's a playwright dedicated to empowering women to speak out against their sexual assault and repressed sexuality, and comes across as such. As I mentioned before, I don't have much experience with theater but, I believe I can enjoy and spot a good theatre performance when it

comes to it. The characters were all detailed and expressive, tackling different social critiques all in one play. It was amazing to watch, and in the future I'd like to see more plays on the same note.