

# THE COLLEGIAN

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## REVIEW

# Performance envelopes audience in mystery

By Taylor Rodriguez  
*Staff reporter*



What do a murder, a math test and England have in common? If your answer was a compelling plot full of emotion, splendid storytelling and beautiful audio and visual cues, you would be correct.

During the 2018 fall season, the SC theatre department put on Mark Hammond's "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime," directed by Jennifer Hemphill, associate professor of theatre and speech. The performances of the Broadway mystery production were at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8-10 and again at 2

p.m. on Nov. 11 in Messenger Recital Hall.

The story follows Christopher Boone, a European character born with autism who uses numbers as a means to relax and focus. The role was played by Ryan Pangracs, theatre sophomore. Pangracs manages to capture the intricate and methodic thought process often found within those who are diagnosed with autism.

One evening, Christopher had stumbled upon his neighbor's dog, Wellington, murdered with a garden pitchfork. This was a mystery to Christopher, a mystery that could not go unsolved. And thus, we follow a 15-year-old Christopher in his detective work. Christopher continues his sleuthing even though his father, Ed Boone, played by Tanner Schartz, musical theatre junior, doesn't support it.

Little by little, a deeper plot beyond just a dead dog begins to develop. Christopher discovers lies about his mother that his fa-

ther told him for his own protection, he witnesses the issues his mother, Judy Boone, played by Ondreya Seahorn, theatre junior, had with his father and he embarks on an adventure by himself to figure this all out.

He runs away from his father and the police. This causes him to endure the anxiety and stress that going out into public may cause for a kid like Christopher. This mystery was full of surprises, twists, turns, comedic moments, serious tones, and overall great energy and emotion. The acting was complemented by a live musical score performed by Scott Olney, liberal arts senior.

A mystery does not always have to be accompanied by serious tones and dreary music. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" does well by steering away from applying dreary music to the background of the play. Often, we heard lively, more inquisitive piano accompanied occasionally with

witty and curious beats from a set of wooden blocks.

When accompanied by piano or percussion, the performance by the students was further developed and it brought more depth to me as an audience member. This production was a beautiful one, and the students of SC who took part should be very proud of the high quality story they have given us.

Southwestern College Theatre Department put on a beautifully conducted show. It was a show so nice, I went and watched it a second time. In the past I have thoroughly enjoyed the plays SC has offered and will continue to enjoy them during my time here. I believe they deserve a 95 out of 100 for their excellent execution, wide range of emotion and an absolutely wonderful performance of this play.

*Taylor Rodriguez is a sophomore majoring in computer science and digital arts. You may email him at [taylor.rodriguez@sckans.edu](mailto:taylor.rodriguez@sckans.edu).*

## REVIEW

# Wayne rises from rest with 'Carter V' album

By Arthur Anderson III  
*Staff reporter*



Lil Wayne is one of rap's legends. Wayne's new album, Carter V, offers listeners quality music with lyrics that make one reflect on their own life. After its Sept. 18, release date, the majority of the album found its way to the top of music chart. So far, Carter V is having great success bringing fame back to Wayne, who reportedly was going to retire from the studio after its original release date in 2014.

In an interview with Undis-

puted, he explained the reason for his retirement is his has four kids he strongly cares for and would wanting to be more involved in their lives. Thankfully, things turned in Lil Wayne's favor. Carter V is one of his most successful albums so far. With all this success, why should you or others listen to it? Is it even worth your time, or is it just another album with hype created because of the artist's name? These questions keep people speculating on whether or not the album is worth the listen.

The original release was pushed back due to tensions between Lil Wayne and the record label Cash Money Records. Wayne said, "My creativity is being held like a prisoner."

A dispute between Wayne and the record label caused the release date to be pushed back even further. In the album Wayne dis-

ses Boss Birdman, the owner of Cash Money Records. Birdman did not like what Wayne wrote about him, so he would not allow Wayne to release the album.

When Wayne's album was released, there was a lot of competition. Many wondered if Wayne could even maintain relevance with other rappers rising into the game. Rappers like Drake, Lil Baby, XXXTENTACION, Gunna and so many more have become more popular as each year has passed.

One competitor who has always maintained his fame is Drake. Drake was not only a successful 2000s artist – he still creates music that is at the top of the charts. Because of all the success that Carter V has had, Wayne did not give much care to his competition.

I suggest you take time out of your day to listen to Carter V. The most popular song on the album

is "Mona Lisa," featuring Kendrick Lamar. The song is about Wayne's struggles in his relationship with his former girlfriend while rising to fame.

You must also listen to "Don't Cry," which features XXXTENTACION. The song is significant because it features a recorded verse from X, who passed away June 18, three months before the album release.

Carter V not only has a phenomenal beat throughout, but each song also represents certain aspects of Wayne's life which most people can relate to.

Even if rap does not fit your taste of music, it can still be enjoyed by anyone who likes solid music. This is one album I recommend you add to your playlist.

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