

SEC film 'Mona Lisa' draws smiles



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The film *Mona Lisa Smile*, starring Julia Roberts and Julia Stiles, will be playing in the BLC Theater Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

By Jodi Cantor
Staff Writer

Review

In *Mona Lisa Smile* Julia Roberts plays a strong and forceful woman striving for change, much like her Academy Award-Winning character Erin Brockovich, but in a much less controversial manner. Roberts plays an opinionated college professor in a 1950's all-girls school, torn between doing her job of teaching art history and making her students think by really opening their eyes.

In the 1950's, women were expected to go to college, but by a certain age they were expected to be married. Not much was expected of them except for cooking, cleaning and taking care of the children. Roberts' character Katherine Watson is appalled by the attitude held by her students, some of which are played by actresses Kirsten Dunst, Julia Stiles and Maggie Gyllenhaal.

When Katherine arrives at the university she realizes that her students are extremely bright and well-mannered, but, when asked a question to which an answer cannot be found in a textbook, much to her disappointment they are confused and remain silent. At first the girls are unable to give their own opinions of works of art and appear to be nothing

more than programmed robots taught what to say and at what moment.

Katherine tries to take charge of her students' lives by opening their eyes to options other than marrying right out of college. She wants her students to make the most out of life and believes that their talents would be wasted on undemanding tasks such as baking and sewing. She believes in them and pushes them to do more than what is asked for by their other professors. Unfortunately, she finds resistance along the road to revolutionizing the way her students think.

Dunst's character Betty Warren is smitten with tradition and does not like what Katherine is trying to achieve. She tries to bring Katherine's spirit down in class. Although this hurts Katherine she still strives for the girls' sake. Much to Katherine's disappointment, however, less is seen of Betty once she gets married. Betty appears to be jealous of her friends who start buying into making more of their lives, but still plays the character of the perfect housewife.

Katherine eventually invests her time in helping Stiles' character Joan Brandwyn in applying to law school, even though she too will soon be

walking down the aisle. Overall Katherine continually makes every effort she can to help her students fight against the societal expectations for them to do nothing more than talk when spoken to. It is unclear whether or not Katherine has succeeded until the end of the film.

Roberts gives a good performance in what is a satisfying film. It is mostly a celebration of the journey women have taken over the past fifty years in getting their words read, their voices heard and their ideas discussed.

The supporting cast does justice to their characters and the setting. The film portrays the male dominated 1950's very accurately and opens a window to the youngest of the baby boomers and teens alike to see what the everyday closed-door workings of the 1950's were really like.

It is a good film as well as an inspirational story for both women and men who want to see something different from the ordinary action flick or romantic comedy. Come out to the Bart Luedeke Center Theater all this weekend at 7:30 p.m. to view *Mona Lisa Smile* but don't expect to be able to pick up any guys.

Start off spring Westminster style

By Nicole Southern
Entertainment Editor

Preview

Spring's finally here and the beautiful sound of chirping birds has filled the air. But nothing can compare to the sound of the Westminster choirs preparing for the conclusion of the school year and their upcoming spring concerts.

Westminster Choir College (WCC) has four concerts scheduled before the end of the school year that students from both the Westminster and Lawrenceville campuses might enjoy.

On this Sunday, April 18, the Westminster Choir will be performing in its annual Spring Concert. Its conductor, Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, WCC Artistic Director, will lead the performance. It will begin at approximately 8 p.m. and will be held in the Bristol Chapel, located on the WCC campus.

"This is the Westminster Choir's final performance with its conductor, Joseph Flummerfelt, before he retires in June," said Anne M. Sears, WCC Director of External Affairs.

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir will also be performing before the end of the semester. Kathleen Ebling-Thorne, a WCC conductor and adjunct instructor who is also a Westminster graduate, will direct it. The concert will take place on Sunday, April 25, at 4 p.m. in the Bristol Chapel.

"This is the ensemble's first local performance this concert season," said Sears.

Sears recommends seeing this performance, as well as that of the

Westminster Chapel Choir. Its spring concert will take place on Friday, April 30 at 8 p.m. Andrew Megill, who is known for his passionate artistry and unusually wide-ranging repertoire, will conduct the performance. It will also be held in the Bristol Chapel.

"This group is composed of all of our freshmen," said Sears. "They performed at President Mordechai Rozanski's inauguration."

The Westminster Schola Cantorum will deliver its spring performance on Sunday, May 9. It will also take place in the Bristol Chapel at roughly 4 p.m. The performance will be conducted by Sun Min Lee, a WCC conductor and assistant professor.

"This is the ensemble's first local performance with its new conductor, Sun Min Lee," said Sears.

According to Sears, the performances will be enjoyable for all who attend. She urges students not to miss out on the concerts because of financial concerns.

"Rider University students, faculty and staff are entitled to receive one free ticket (with ID) to each performance," said Sears.

Students may get tickets before the performance or buy them at the door. They can be purchased in person or ordered over the phone.

"Tickets may be obtained by coming to the Westminster box office in Williamson Hall on the Westminster campus between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays," said Sears.

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Likely
- 4 Foot part
- 8 Viviparous animal
- 14 Tavern
- 15 London district
- 16 Each
- 17 Beachwear
- 19 Spencer Tracy film, "___ Inferno"
- 20 Still straight
- 21 Most strict
- 23 Oboes and clarinets
- 24 Bashful
- 25 As well
- 26 Lucy's mate
- 27 Germ cell
- 29 Tiny songbird
- 32 Unconscious
- 35 "Sands of ___ Jima"
- 36 Zodiac sign
- 39 Cup's partner
- 41 Gone by
- 42 Lucas blockbuster
- 46 Rain cats and dogs
- 48 Hirsute
- 49 Impulse
- 53 Gat or heater
- 55 Rogers or Scheider
- 56 Characteristic
- 57 Scorn
- 60 "Anchors ___"
- 61 Narcotic
- 62 Gillian of "The X-Files"
- 64 Of a fast period
- 65 Relinquish
- 66 Samuel's mentor
- 67 Provokes
- 68 Midterm or final
- 69 Neil Simon's nickname

- 7 Up-and-comer
- 8 Manufactured
- 9 Isolated
- 10 "Gilligan's Island" boat
- 11 Like a shooting star?
- 12 Top pilots
- 13 For fear that
- 18 First family of Florence
- 22 Neophyte
- 24 Health resort
- 27 Bessie of the blues
- 28 Test writing
- 30 Wool producer
- 31 Neither's companion
- 33 Switch positions
- 34 Auditory organ
- 36 Hiatus
- 37 Self-image
- 38 Bereavement
- 40 Moneylender
- 43 Seniors' org.
- 44 Mob violence counteraction

- ### DOWN
- 1 Ridiculously incongruous
 - 2 Native American Oklahoman
 - 3 Groups of clans
 - 4 Orgs.
 - 5 Resounding defeat
 - 6 Ho ___ Minh

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- 45 Ironic
- 47 Revolve
- 50 Brought up
- 51 Paid male escort
- 52 Of a common heritage
- 54 Hinder
- 56 Nest sound
- 57 Soft drink
- 58 Uncork
- 59 YMCA part
- 60 Annexes
- 63 Born in Brest