

The Collegian

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

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Cover: Roger Moon, associate professor of theater and speech. (Min Jiao)

Actors, intense action shine in Lawless



HAYLEY WESTON-McCLAIN

When the special agent comes to Franklin County, Va., his mission is to shut down every moonshiner in the county. He knows who the Bondurant brothers are and will not stop at anything to try to bring them down.

During the Prohibition-era, law enforcement didn't try to stop moonshiners. In "Lawless," a special agent from Chicago arrived to do it for them.

"Lawless" is based on the novel "The Wet-

test County in The World" by Matt Bondurant. They are based on a true story.

As the best moonshiners in the county, the Bondurant brothers run a diner/gas station, where they hire a lady named Maggie Beauford (Jessica Chastain) to work. She later has a low-key romance with one of the brothers.

Forrest Bondurant is played by Tom Hardy from the latest "Dark Knight" movie. He

plays the oldest brother, and is definitely the one in charge. There is a myth that he is invincible, after he defies death on multiple occasions.

The middle brother, Howard (Jason Clarke), is the muscles of the family. He is depended on to take care of anyone who tries cause trouble. The baby of the family Jack (Shia LaBeouf) keeps nagging his brothers to let him be more involved

with the family business.

After an incident occurs between Jack Bondurant and special agent Charlie Rakes (Guy Pearce), he decides to prove himself by taking the family business to Chicago, to sell the top gangster Floyd Banner (Gary Oldman).

Shia LeBeouf plays the part of the overconfident brother fiercely.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Bondurant brothers dodge Charlie Rakes until Jack makes one wrong move. This causes Charlie to find their hiding spot, and is a climatic part of the story plot.

The antagonist of this film is Charlie Rakes. He does a great job of playing this role with just the right emotions. On the outside he looks like a gentleman, but the way he goes about doing his job makes the audience want to hit him in the face.

This film directed by John

Hillcoat is one of his first box office movies. It has made \$30.1 million so far.

The actors keep the audience on the edge of their seats waiting for what will happen next. Even though there are many conversations in this film, the most intense ones are almost at a whisper which makes the audience want to know what they are saying.

"Lawless" kept me interested in the story plot the entire time. I couldn't guess what was going to happen next. Even though I am not big on violence, this movie had balance to it, so I was not grossed out the entire movie.

I would recommend "Lawless" to anyone who is interested in history, or that just wants to see a great movie with even better actors.

Hayley Weston-McClain is a junior majoring in communication. You may email her at hayley.weston@sckans.edu

New album strengthens old sounds



LEVI NORD

If you attended the Walnut Valley Festival, you might be burnt out on banjos, which would be a shame, as the critically acclaimed Mumford & Sons just released their second album and it's as folky and full of banjo as their award-winning debut album, "Sigh No More."

"Babel", the band's second album, was released on Sept. 25, complete with a deluxe edition, which contains three bonus

tracks, including a cover of Paul Simon's "The Boxer."

As a follow-up album, the band has achieved something incredible.

They have recreated and even perfected the unique sound and style which launched them to international prominence in 2010.

The English folk-rock band is known primarily for their gritty vocals and fast-

paced, uplifting banjo music. Multi-instrumentalists, Marcus Mumford, Ben Lovett, Winston Marshall, and Ted Dwane make up the exciting quartet, and rotate through instruments for various songs, with Mumford being the proud owner of the gritty vocals which have enthralled so many people.

Like the previous album, this album was produced by Markus Dravs.

While some may find this

album redundant in comparison to the band's debut, the new songs all have their own unique feel, which allows this album to truly be a continuation of what the band strove for with "Sigh No More."

With songs like "Broken Crown" following suit with the band's downbeat music, audiences are offered an emotionally

MUSIC REVIEW

charged slower tempo, reminiscent of "Thistles & Weeds", perfectly matched by the always perfect lyrics.

More of the songs also have the fast-paced, energetic, anthem-like music and lyrics which make an audience feel as if they could conquer the world, namely "Hopeless Wanderer," arguably the best track on the album, even though "I Will Wait" is officially the album's top single.

Peaking at number 1 on the UK music charts, and gaining both critical and

popular acclaim around most of Europe, as well as around other parts of the globe, the album continues the international acclaim the band has gained in the past two years.

Ultimately, the band's sincere and gruff vocals, with its strong lyrics, unconventional instrumentals, and exciting style makes Mumford & Sons a fantastic band for anyone, ranging from the casual listener to those of us who are looking for a little bit more out of their music.

The band even reaches a slightly older audience with "The Boxer" cover.

Anyone who appreciates indie rock, alternative rock, and/or folk music should give Mumford & Sons a try.

I'd give the album two thumbs up, and can't wait to see what else Mumford & Sons has to offer.

Levi Nord is a freshman majoring in theatre. You can email him at levi.nord@sckans.edu.