

Laughter creates fuel for 9 Lives Troupe

By Dru Pelter
Staff reporter

The 9 Lives Troupe, the improv group on campus, has been putting on shows for years in the city of Winfield and plan on continuing that tradition for as long as possible.

Members of the troupe shared some comments about 9 Lives and why it is so successful among students along with why it is so fun to be in.

“Performing can be very fun, it can be liberating. In my years of doing improv, I’ve learned that you have to take life for what it gives you and don’t necessarily get to go by the script,” said Paul Mata, religion and philosophy senior. “There isn’t just a typical student who enjoys watching improvisational acts. Students from all walks of life and in all majors can find something to enjoy in improv comedy.”

Zenas Lopez, business senior, has been with the 9 Live Troupe since his freshman year. Lopez revealed the biggest factor in improvisational comedy. He said, “Without the audience, there would be no show. We need them to give us ideas. Really the audience chooses how the show goes.”

Lopez has a favorite part of performing. He said, “I just like making people forget about their troubles for a little.” Lopez doesn’t shy away from the spotlight. He said he never gets nervous.

Allyson Moon, associate professor of theatre and speech, is the director and coach of the 9 Lives Troupe. She has been with the group since it started.

She said, “There’s certain technique that you have to learn and there’s improvisational acting you have to learn. You have to also be in the moment and just be free while you’re acting.” Moon went on to say, “My absolute favorite part of directing is when the performers are working together as an ensemble and when they feel they’re totally free in order to play. They aren’t inhibited.”

Moon highlighted former student’s accomplishments. She



Members of 9 Lives, Emily Tilton, elementary education junior, Caitlin Harris, biology senior, Paul Mata, religion and philosophy senior, and Shane Schrag, theatre arts junior, practice improvisational comedy to liven the mood of students. (Dalton Carver/Collegian Photographer)

said, “Aron Pflingsten just graduated and is now working at “The Brave New Workshop Comedy Theatre” in Minneapolis.” Kyler Chase is another student who worked at “The Brave New Workshop.” Moon said that both of these performers also have musical talent to bring to improv.

The 9 Lives Troupe will have another performance at 9 p.m. Oct. 10 in Messenger Recital Hall. 9 Lives is asking for everyone going to that show to wear as much pink as possible in support of breast cancer awareness.

Dru Pelter is a freshman majoring in communication at. You may contact him at Dru.Pelter@sckans.edu.



Part of the 9 Lives cast freeze during a show. (Dalton Carver/Collegian Photographer)



9 Lives chooses a new theme for each performance (Dalton Carver/Collegian Photographer)



Shane Schrag, theatre arts junior, prepares for the next act of a performance. (Dalton Carver/Collegian Photographer)