

## Fast-Moving 'Sense And Sensibility' Comes To Lenfest

W&L's Department of Theater, Dance, and Film Studies will present Kate Hamill's play "Sense and Sensibility," based on Jane Austen's novel, next week.

The play will run Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 7, 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Theatre at the Lenfest Center. Tickets are \$5.

"Sense and Sensibility" follows the lives of the Dashwood sisters after their father's sudden death, leaving them penniless and alone.

The play is directed by the department's newest assistant professor of theater history, global cinema and dramatic writing, Stephanie Sandberg.

Sandberg taught for 20 years in the theater department at Calvin College in Michigan and founded Adapt Theatre Company there. With this experience under her belt, she is excited to continue the hard work and mastery that Washington and Lee University students bring to their productions. "They're very dedicated and they're hard workers," she said of W&L student-actors. "They have a huge amount of respect for the professor and whoever is in the leadership position. They're willing to collaborate and work with you."

Sandberg likes this adaptation more than any other adaptation of "Sense and Sensibility" that she's encountered. "This one is much funnier, much faster and more honest to the Austen tradition of wit," she said. "It does it with an ensemble cast of 10 actors who play multiple roles. It moves very quickly."

Those 10 actors, however, play a total of 24 different roles. Sandberg enjoys the challenge this role-playing brings to the actors because they are able to create and be different characters as a whole with their bodies and voice. The set is designed of rolling furniture so that the play can move seamlessly and the actors can flow from scene to scene.

"The actors immediately have to transform. It gives you a sense of what the creative mind can do," Sandberg said. "The acting has to tell the whole story here, so we get to show off the power of transformative performance. That's the kind of theater I like to direct where the performer is empowered by the material."

Sandberg said she thinks that Jane Austen is becoming rediscovered in our society today as we think about relationships we have. "Sometimes we want to return to the past and it becomes interesting to talk about love and romance," she said. "[ "Sense and Sensibility" ] really is a romantic comedy."

Sandberg also has a scheduled talk with W&L English professor Taylor Walle at Kendal of Lexington today, Nov. 30, at 4:30 p.m. for Kendal residents. "[Professor Walle] has been our dramaturge, or our literary expert, of the theater," Sandberg said. "So she's come in and answered questions because she's an expert in 18th and 19th-century novels. Austen is right up her alley."

Tickets for the play can be ordered online at <http://www.wlu.edu/lenfest-center> or by calling the Lenfest box office at 458-8000. Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. and two hours prior to performance time.

## Gobble Wobbling 2016



The fifth annual Lexington Gobble Wobble 5K race/run start was a crowded scene as the 422 participants get ready to take off. With approximately 50 children participating in the 1-mile Fun Run, there were 478 registered participants, said Katy Datz, one of the race coordinators. "It's the largest crowd we've had yet," said Datz. (Claudia Schwab photo)



MIDDLE LEFT, Maddie White, 23, of New York, and Carolyn White, 54, of Newtown, cross the finish line in the 5K. ABOVE, Lee Crance, 2 1/2, of Lexington high-fives the Gobble Wobble turkey. Lee rode in a stroller with his parents Matt and Jenny Crance as they participated in the 5K run/walk. AT LEFT, Tim Martin (center), the winner of the 5K run, and third-place winner Ben Connelly (at left) get congratulated by last year's race winner, Robert Cook, who placed eighth this year. The Gobble Wobble raised approximately \$10,000, which will be donated to the Rockbridge Area YMCA, Rockbridge Area Health Center and the local chamber of commerce. (Claudia Schwab photos)

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