



ARTS & CULTURE

Alumnus dances for Dallas Cowboys

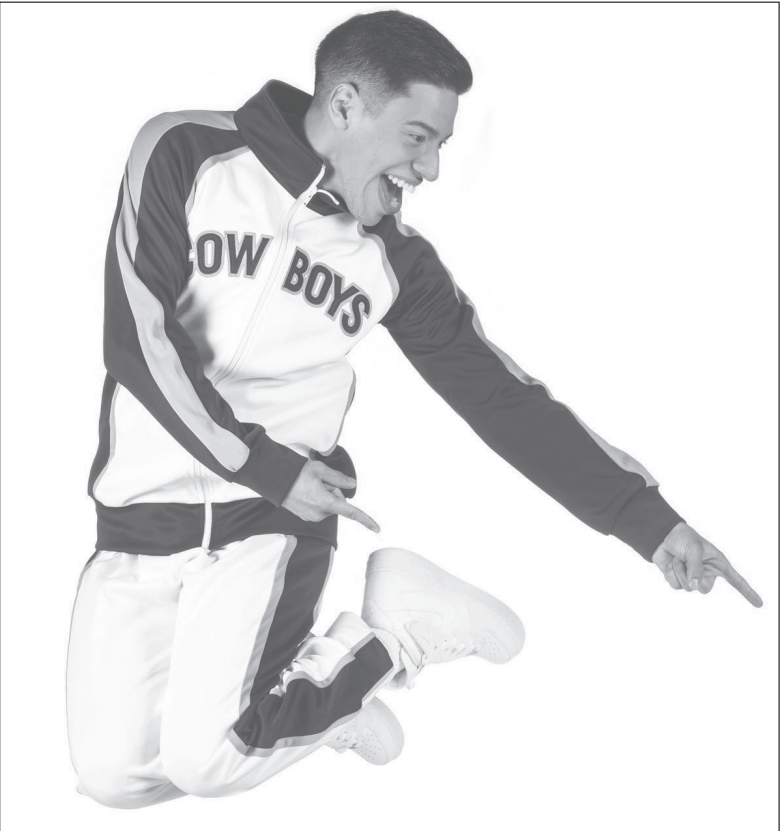


Photo courtesy of Rhi Lee

Adony Rios, a former Brookhaven College student, now dances for the Dallas Cowboys Rhythm and Blues dance team.

By Mykel Hilliard
Arts & Culture Editor

AT&T Stadium was packed for the Dallas Cowboys opening game against the New York Giants. At halftime, the Dallas Cowboys Rhythm and Blues dance team took to the field with help from the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and over 150 local dancers.

Former Brookhaven College student Adony Rios was one of them. The team’s high energy dance moves set to the beat of hip-hop songs kept the crowd entertained and on their feet.

“It is so amazing to not only represent my city that I grew up in, but also my team,” Rios said. “The Dallas Cowboys are beloved by not only people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but millions of

people around the world.”

BOOGIE BEGINNINGS
Rios’ passion with dance began at a young age. He said he first fell in love with dance after seeing the movie “Step Up.”
“I remember I would watch the movie over and over again,” he said. “After some practice, I wasn’t terrible, and I realized I was able to pull off some of the moves.”

Throughout his childhood and teenage years, he continued to dance and perform. In high school, he participated in dance, theater and choir.

“The arts growing up meant a lot to me because it gave me something to be passionate about when everything else wore me down,” he said.

During his first semester at Brookhaven, Rios took dance classes and briefly danced with Brookhaven’s Windmill Dance Company.

“Brookhaven played a very big role in shaping my dance abilities,” he said. “I was introduced to many new dance styles, such as modern, jazz and hip-hop.”

Rios said dancing at Brookhaven got him out of his comfort zone and the concerts taught him how to carry himself as a dancer.

“The tone of the concerts was different than what I had previously experienced dancing in high school.”

He decided to audition for the

team after finding out about it from a close friend.

Rios first auditioned in 2018, but was cut during one of the final rounds. He said the rejection pushed him to work harder to prepare for the audition the following year.

“I spent time working on the things they told me to work on, which was cleanliness and my shapes,” he said. “I thought about ways that I could better myself as a dancer.”

A SECOND CHANCE

During the year leading up to the next round of auditions, he took several dance classes and studied past DCRB team videos. “I wanted to show them I didn’t come here to do the same thing I did last year,” he said.

“I ended up unexpectedly joining a dance crew and that gave me experience with working a team,” he said.

Rios said he wanted to show the DCRB that he was willing to grow as a dancer and that he had a unique role to play for the team.

Rios’ sister Kaylee said she supported him during the audition process in various ways. “I would give him a ride or have dinner made for us because I

knew he’d be so exhausted from dancing all day,” she said. “I’d also show support by constantly reminding him that he’s meant to be doing this, because he truly is talented.”

TIME TO SHINE

His persistence and hard work paid off when he was offered a spot on the team this June. Rios said he began to tear up when he found out.

“It was a surprise and I was not expecting it all, I thought we were still auditioning,” he said.

Fellow DCRB team member Ariel Adriana Griego said she got emotional the first time she saw Rios put on his uniform.

“I remember hugging him and expressing my appreciation for all of his hard work and dedication toward making the team,” she said.

Since joining the team, Rios said he has had to give up certain aspects of his personal life to attend rehearsals and events, but is proud he is living his dreams.

“We just did the halftime show and those rehearsals were nuts,” he said. “Back-to-back, running the entire show over and over again.”

He said his teammates have

been able to bond and uplift each other during their long rehearsals. “When you are under such immense pressure and at rehearsal for hours, we are responsible for keeping each other at 100%,” Rios said. “We all lift each other up as much as possible.”

LESSONS LEARNED

DCRB team member Amber Sanchez said she loves dancing alongside Rios. “He is always so encouraging, positive and full of life,” she said.

“His passion is contagious, and his energy brightens up our entire dance studio.”

Rios said he would tell any dancer wishing to pursue dance professionally to keep auditioning and to have fun.

“With the experience of auditioning, you have already won,” he said. “Go into it like you have nothing to lose. My first audition didn’t work out, but I came back next year harder.”

He said the art of dance speaks for itself. Rios said: “With dance, I can express every type of emotion through it. I can be angry. I can be sad. I can be anything.”

Looking back, he said, he would tell his younger self who fell in love with dance that he made it.

“I would tell him ‘You went from dancing in your living room to dancing at AT&T Stadium,’” he said. “No dream is too big, and this is only the beginning.”

School of the Arts will show “Spring Awakening” this fall

By Angel Zetino
Fashion/Social Media Editor

The Brookhaven College School of the Arts will show a coming-of-age production of Frank Wedekind’s “Spring Awakening.” The production will take place Oct. 10-20 in The Black Box Theatre in C Building.

“This play focuses on uneducated teens and how they face the consequences of their actions,” Crystal Fiallos, a cast member, said.

Those auditioning for the cast included current students, but also alumni, faculty members and students from other colleges.

Fiallos, a student at the University of North Texas, said viewers can expect the play to deliver a stronger message than a musical night. Fiallos will play Martha, the daughter of an abusive father and a mother who is indifferent to the abuse.

Lisa Devine, the director, said “Spring Awakening” will explore uncomfortable topics. The play touches on the dangerous repercussions of overly repressed adults and adolescents with emerging sexual urges and feelings they do not understand.

Darise Error, chair of the theater department, said, “Kids need early, accurate and complete information. Not just about the birds and the bees, but also the feelings of it, and how to deal with the feelings.”

Devine said auditions for the play went well. She said she saw a wide variety of talent, and that

Brookhaven College School of the Arts and Theatre Brookhaven proudly present

Spring Awakening

By Frank Wedekind
translated by Edward Bond

directed by Lisa Devine

Contains Strong
ADVISORY
Sexual Themes

FREE Admission

Oct. 10-12 & 17-19 at 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13 & 20 at 2:30 p.m.
Black Box, Bldg. C

Reservations Strongly Recommended

Ticket Reservations: <https://www1.dcccd.edu/bhc/bcsa-tickets/>

Courtesy of Brookhaven College School of the Arts

it was great to see newcomers auditioned for this show.

“This is a personal project for me. It was the first professional show I viewed at the Alley Theatre in Houston,” Devine said. Devine said she played the role of Martha herself in a production of this

play while she was in college. “As a parent now, that character has guided me,” Devine said.

“Spring Awakening” will be presented Oct. 10-13 and Oct. 17-20 with showings at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Critical Review

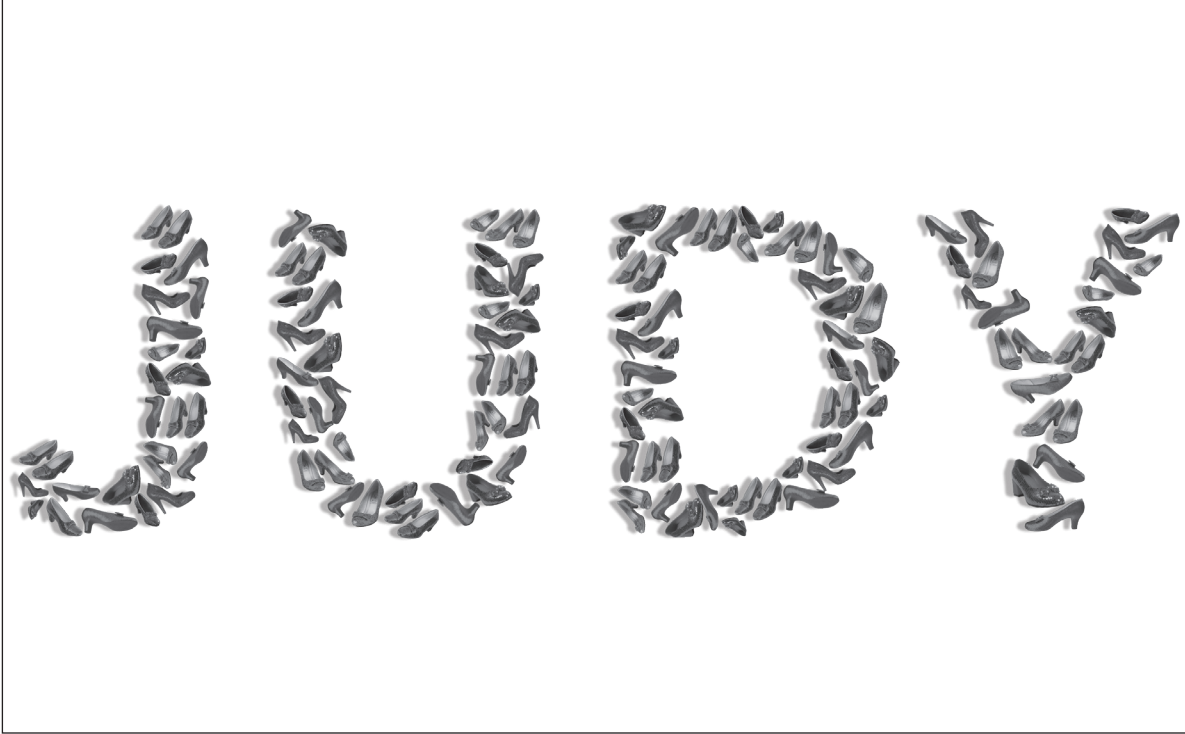


Illustration by Eriana Ruiz

The new biopic “Judy” depicts actress Judy Garland during her turbulent last months of life and song.

“Judy” finds light in dark places

By Ivan Avila
Contributing Writer

“Judy,” a feature film offering a glimpse into the last year of actress Judy Garland’s life, quickly sucks its viewers into a harsh story and a relentless chain of hard decisions. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Garland’s death.

“Judy” is not the first Garland biopic, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Actress Judy Davis gave her interpretation of Garland in a TV miniseries a little under two decades ago. Davis merely lip-synced Garland’s original recordings.

The 2019 biopic stars Renée Zellweger and takes place during the actress’ final London performances in the winter of 1968, when Garland’s voice was not at its best. So Zellweger, who plays Garland, decided to perform the song herself.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Zellweger said, “There are certain things about her experiences that I understand having lived the life inside Hollywood.” She said she understands the differences between the projections of a public persona and the true human experience, and that this connection had allowed her to embody the objectified and mistreated actress.

What starts as a casual, chronological story beginning with a younger Garland (Darci Shaw), soon turns into a roller coaster of a film. Garland begins the film on the yellow brick road, but in a flash, the film catches up to a more defeated Garland. The one-time beloved child actress is an alcoholic, homeless, pill-addicted, divorced mother.

While Garland finds ways of coping with the situations she finds herself in, watching the film industry’s practically felonious treatment of her is dread-inspiring.

Then again, though the movie has a dark tone, it always seems to find comedic relief, a little light in every scene.

Even when things are not going her way, she still finds hope, making for a good balance of doom and gloom and optimism.

Her struggles with abuse and addiction plague her throughout the film, but from under all the despair shine traces of a kindhearted, likeable and strong-willed woman.

Rupert Goold, is based on a play by Peter Quilter that focused on the final months of Garland’s life, according to THR. Goold’s own past work as a theater director comes out in the cinematography, which uses flashbacks to tell Garland’s story in a non-linear fashion.

“Judy” debuted Sept. 27. It’s a stunning film, and definitely a must-see.

for herself but also for her children is just as inspiring.

The film shines perhaps the most in its musical numbers. The microphone transforms this fragile, almost-defeated Garland into

an unstoppable force. Her glamour leaves viewers in eager anticipation of her next performance. “Over the Rainbow” is one of the hardest hitters.

Zellweger really goes all out in her performance. Longtime fan Charles Gregory said, “I’ve been a Judy Garland fan my whole life. She captured ‘it.’”

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