

A KILLER SHOW

fall musical brings the creepy
story of sweeney todd to life

Elon's renowned Department of Performing Arts hung up their ripped jeans, threw away their black lipstick and made the transition from last spring's repertoire of punk-rock Green Day for the menicising ballads of Stephen Sondheim's, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Senior **Alec Michael Ryan** beautifully embodied the role of Mr. Sweeney Todd himself and led the remainder of the exquisite company through a six day killing streak for full audiences to admire.

For those left confused at what could possibly be so admirable about a tale of a murderer, here's a deeper look into the content of the show itself. The fictional persona of Sweeney Todd was first introduced to the world through film in 1846 as a member of the cast in "The String of Pearls." It was decades later when artists pursued Mr. Todd as a solo act, removing him from the role in the film and writing an entirely new story around his monstrous acts.

Sweeney Todd is a false name for Benjamin Barker, a young man who was exiled by the false orders of Judge Turpin. Barker has returned in the disguise of Todd as revenge for the pain Turpin caused not only to himself, but also to his wife after Barker's banishment.

When revenge turns red with blood, Todd finds himself incapable of stopping the pain he has stretched across town, and what could be considered as a horror show ends in long-lost love, heartbreak and the death of Todd himself.

A difficult production to "pull off," Elon undergraduate students once again handle the unusual harmonies and dark content with bliss, leaving the audience standing in awe each and every night.

story by: KAITLIN BROZEK
design by: SARAH STONE



CAPTIONS: 1) Senior **Tucker Stampen**, junior **Brandon Halvorsen**, senior **Breia Kelley** and the rest of the ensemble of *Sweeney Todd* perform a choreographed piece to "God That's Good." 2) Senior **Jake David Smith** as Anthony Hope expresses his love for senior **Sophia Scarpulla** as Joanna while she is locked up by the judge in the song "Johanna." 3) Senior **Justin Norwood** as barber Adolpho Pirelli shows off his miracle elixir in a shaving contest while performing "The Contest." (All photos by **Liam O'Connor**).