

2020 ELECTION

CHRISTINE JENKINSON Breaking News Reporter

While focus is set on the national election, local candidates and ballot issues are becoming more and more important. As college students are now of age to vote, paying attention to who candidates are and what they stand for can make for a lot of research.

The Journalism and Digital Media department (JDM) is prepared for the election.

AUTV 20 is just one of the media dedicated to bringing its viewers all of the information needed to keep up with results throughout election night with their show Election 20.

On Nov. 3, JDM students will present a five-hour live show, from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m, and can be viewed on AUTV 20 (channel 20 on Armstrong) and the JDM streaming channel (which will be uploaded on AU-Live) and listened to on 88.9 WRDL.

One JDM class is in charge of producing and talent, while two other JDM classes are in charge of crewing.

This show will consist of live results from the local elections all the way up to the national election.

There are multiple components that will be running with the live show: social media, live updates to AU-Live, a reporter checking in from the Ashbrook Watch Party and radio coverage.

Preparation during the coronavirus meant change in regards to interviews and two debates. However, interviews that have already been completed can now be viewed on AU-Live, as well as articles to match the recorded interviews.

To adhere to COVID protocols there have been two teams set for the night. This way, there will



NATHAN LANGDON

Nathan Langdon and his team created this logo to appear on air during the live election show.

not be more than the maximum number of people allowed in the JDM department.

Another crucial part of Election 20 has been the generous help of the history and political science department of the Ashbrook Center. Professors have been interviewed and students will be interviewed on election night.

IDM is grateful to have three Ashbrook scholars, all of whom have important role that night, including producing the Ashbrook Watch Party segment, helping

and debates.

This year, a unique element are the two main talent who usually serve as sports talent, one is even the sports producer of AUTV 20, and the other is sports editor of The Collegian.

"This talent has been a lot different than any other show I have been a part of," junior Lewis Markham, digital media production major, said. "There is a lot more work involved in a fivehour-live television show than a three-minute sports break...As an

everything means."

Senior Jordann Lopata, digital media production major with a digital media journalism minor, also feels that preparing to report news is something that she has needed to spend time learning how to do.

"Sports comes to me a lot easier, and to break into an intense show on news is a lot of work," Lopata said. "I do like working with other people to create the scripts and things like that. It definitely is different than being just sports because there is a lot more that you have to worry about."

Another factor that has been worked into this year's election show is the power of polls. A poll was put out by AUTV-20's social media and AU-Live's social media accounts, asking voting and policy questions.

Questions on the poll include healthcare, gun rights and the debates. Polls close on Nov. 2 at 10 p.m.

"So, prior to the start [of the show], we will be analyzing our data that we have collected to understand what citizens are interested in," junior Chante Rutherford, digital media production major and head of the social media team, said. "The social media team will then start a livestream: this will include talks about our guests we will have on, the experience we've had going through the class' process and we will be including [our reporter at the Watch Party]."

Viewers will know what the reporter looks like by his graphic, which is being run by a team of three. Nathan Langdon, junior double major in fine arts and digital media production, is the head of that team.

"Being in charge of graphics while also overseeing multiple other people presented a unique challenge for me personally...the fact that the vision changed and evolved over time as the other teams began ironing out different details of the show," Langdon said. "So our team had to be very flexible as well."

General manager of WRDL and adjunct faculty member, Derek Wood, will be overseeing the radio's simulcast of AUTV 20. Two students will be running the show at the radio station, as well as the Comrex that will be used for the Watch Party.

Exclusive content will be added into WRDL's broadcast.

"WRDL has a studio remodel, so the technical difficulties that we woud have in '16 are nonexistsant now, just because the equipment is newer, there's less walls to deal with so we're not running as much cable," Woods said. "Much easier access for TV-20 for us, much easier access for us to TV-20."

John Skrada, director of operations and broadcasting, has been working with every single producer and graphics member to set up all of the technology that will be needed throughout the night. He has also set up the technology needed between WRDL and AUTV 20.

Dr. Dave McCoy, associate professor and chair of the Journalism and Digital Media department, will be overseeing the entire night.

"The anchor from the 2012 program is now the Coordinating Producer of E-Sports for ESPN," McCoy said. "The director from 2012 owns a video production company. The co-anchors from the 2016 telecast are now both anchors for television stations and the director works for a television station in San Diego."

Students were sent the link via email to participate in the election poll. The link can also be accessed by visiting AU-Live.com.

talent with their understanding of politics and producing interviews

anchor, my job is to add color and give the audience insight on what





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Rehearsals for Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" begin

ZOE BOGARTY Reporter

Coming soon to Ashland University's Hugo Young Theatre, several members of the student body will be participating in an upcoming performance of a Shakespearean comedy, called "Twelfth Night" on Nov. 5 through 8.

The play was chosen to be more accessible for both audience and cast members with the many roles needed, and after six years without Shakespeare, students were adamant about having the full experience.

The production will be set in the 1930s as a romantic comedy written by William Shakespeare, following Viola (played by Tiffany Sims), who has been shipwrecked and believes she has lost her brother at sea.

Viola soon dresses up as a boy and finds herself in Duke Orsino's (played by Tobin Grendzynski) court, looking for someone to take her in to take care of her.

Eventually, she falls in love with the Duke but the duke is actually in love with Oliva (played by Mia Kardotzke), who falls in love with the disguised boy which makes for a fascinating love triangle.

Dr. Teresa Dubin-Ames, an Ashland Faculty Director, has taken a step back from directing the upcoming play to let guest director from Cleveland, Christine McBurney, take the creative reigns.

"She has so much more experience than I do directing and staging Shakespeare, so it was very important to me that we bring someone again who has the expertise, who can help our students: with the text, with the language, and with the physicality of bringing this to life," said Dubin-Ames. "That is something I am very excited about."

With COVID-19 making an appearance earlier this year and having the spring show "Odd Couple" moved to this semester, the cast and crew are more than excited to showcase the work they have been doing since the very first week of school

The cast and crew have taken the time to accommodate for the safety of themselves and others by monitoring their symptoms and health while still making the production happen for AU students to experience a sense of normality in the current world.

Many of the cast members have been expressing their excitement for the next few weeks of practice, welcoming the chance to perform again.

Mia Kardotzke, a cast member and theatre major, urges the community to come. The theatre is doing many things to follow social distancing guidelines and ensure the audience has a great time.

"I think everybody should go and see it," Kardotzke said. "As of next week, we are starting off-script-I have full confidence in this cast and this crew. Even though it's going to be social distanced and everyone's going to be at a different part of the stage, you're not going to interact with each other physically, you're still going to get the story and I think everybody has worked hard so that you can still feel those connections, and still see the story happening."

Together the cast, crew and directors have put their hearts and voices into making the show happen.

After weeks of rehearsing and taking the time to understand the deeper meaning behind "Twelfth Night," and now they are nearly ready to share that experience with the Ashland community in November.

Tobin Grendzynski, part of the show, expressed what doing a live show means. Offering the performances this year satisfies the desire for live art and a sense of normalcy.

"I am very excited because with [COVID] going on I feel like I am in a withdrawal of doing shows. I've only recently done a music review, it was just a cabaret of musical theatre songs, but it just wasn't the same as actually getting up and being a character throughout an entire show," Grendzynski said. "I hope we can have a live audience, even if we have to wear masks. Like I just want a live performance so my friends and family can come and see it."

Camden Edwards, an actor in the upcoming show who will be playing Sir Toby, said, "I am excited, [the show is] really funny and we're even laughing at each other watching these rehearsals. I just think that people might get intimidated like 'oh, it's Shakespeare I'm not going to understand anything that's going on', but I say if they give it a shot, they're going to have a really good time."

Tickets for the upcoming show can be purchased at the AU Bookstore or by calling (419) 289-5336. Each seat is spaced out to accommodate social distancing, and the audience is required to wear masks throughout the entire performance.

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