

the scoop

Vance appears as extra in new film

SEAN REPUYAN
Reporter



SUBMITTED BY: JACK VANCE
Vance is set to appear as an extra in a new movie starring Tom Holland.

The newly released film, “Cherry,” starring Tom Holland and Ciara Bravo, features a familiar face from Ashland University’s campus and the Journalism and Digital Media Department. Sophomore Digital Media Production major Jack Vance had the opportunity to play an extra in the new semi-autobiographical film based on Nico Walker’s novel of the same name. The film is centered around the character Cherry, played by Holland, who suffers from PTSD after serving as an army medic in Iraq, and later becomes addicted to heroin and commits a series of bank robberies. Directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, “Cherry” was mostly filmed in Cleveland and the surrounding area back in October 2019 through January 2020. Vance describes his time on set as an “irreplaceable experience,” saying that the collaboration between the cast and crew as well as the ex-

perience of being on a professional movie set was truly remarkable and an opportunity he would definitely take again. “I am not much of an actor myself, but I’ve had an interest in film and studio production for a while,” Vance said. “Being on set, the experience was interesting, and I was not prepared for how professional yet relaxed it would be. The set itself was extremely calculated and everything was planned down to every minute and even second. I want to continue to pursue offers and other opportunities just like this.” According to Vance, he gained the opportunity from signing up to receive emails from the casting company, Angela Boehm Castings, for new movies, commercials or short films in the Cleveland area. To be an extra, Vance said he did not have to audition for the part, but he did have to send in demographic details and characteristics about himself, as well as provide his schedule and headshots to the company. Vance’s on-screen moment shows him wearing a tan coat and walking past an elevator. Even though this moment in the scene is just a few seconds, Vance took invaluable knowledge with him off-screen. Although this was Vance’s first time being on a professional movie set, it was not his first time being in front of a camera. “It was definitely a learning experience, but I will take what I learned on the production side of things and continue to make videos of my own on YouTube,” Vance said.

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PHOTOS BY AVAERIE FITZGERALD

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She dismissed the investigation, and instead, opted to seek counseling. “When I went upstairs to the counseling department, they told me it was going to be a four to six week wait for me to see a counselor.”

The three counselors on AU’s campus had a long line of students, and after being offered the opportunity to skip to the front, Fisher felt she had no right to stand between other students’ needs. Fisher said that her counselor did not let her relive her experience, which did not alleviate her pain. She wanted to be heard, but instead she felt silenced.

“I’ve been to three or four different counselors within a 60 mile radius of my town and none of them have really been able to help me bring my feelings to the surface,” Fisher said. “I started feeling unsafe on campus and I was starting to feel very conscious of my surroundings and thinking, ‘is this guy next to me the person that raped me?’ Was the group of three guys at the eating hall staring at me the ones who raped me?” Fisher did not get to find her resolution on campus, but instead found solace in separating herself from the area that her assault took place. “I wish that they [AU] had someone on that board who was a female, who could relate to whatever I was feeling.” After all of that, Fisher dropped out of school. She continues to comment on AU’s posts and monitor the school’s responses to cases like hers. The goal that Pool and other administration members hope to achieve is resolution in cases. “Sometimes that resolution is going through with a formal investigation all with due process, some

“We have set a culture of love and respect on our campus, and part of that respect is in the way we communicate with one another.

- President Dr. Carlos Campo

times it’s just getting the students’ support they’re asking for and leaving the door wide open for future resolution,” Pool said. “But in all cases, we try to let that student be in control.”

President of AU Dr. Carlos Campo, commented that the response from students, alum and other community members was overwhelming. “That tells me there is a lot of pent up hurt, anger and frustration around this issue,” Campo said. “One of the things I want to say is that I openly apologize for any culpability that the institution has for fostering that, because we want to say that we can’t begin to comprehend the fullness of the pain that so many people are in, but we are not just going to say it at that and leave it at that. It was a wake up for me to say that what’s real is that people are upset, people are hurting and feeling frustrated.”

Britt spoke up about being reached out to by graduated students who felt the impact of the project and the protest. “This entire movement going on has just shown how many survivors are actually on this campus and how far they stretch back,” Britt said. “There’s alumni reaching out to me from campus in 2019 with their stories, and about how Ashland has failed them in this. It’s important to realize how Ashland can take Title IX laws and how they can implement them in a better way that’s more survivor-friendly that isn’t going to victim-

blame and take the side of the assaulter.” The purpose for Elevate’s protest being held on campus is to be vocal about stories that many survivors have. “We wanted to hold it on Ashland’s campus to make sure that they know how many lives they’ve affected and how many stories are out there of people that are too afraid to come forward because of Ashland and the perception of them,” she said. Campo extended his desire for continuous improvement in areas that students believe to be lacking. “Shame on us if we don’t respond to that. We want to be better and our response could have been better,” he said. “It’s hard because there’s a legal side—you want to protect students, but there’s only so much you can say, and so our response could have been better in general. We want to continue to seek improvement.”



Details on Springfest 2021



SUBMITTED BY: BRITTANY CLOSE
CAB members gather for a picture at the 2019 Springfest.

HANNAH WITTEMAN
Reporter

This semester, Ashland University’s annual Springfest will be held on April 24 by the campus activities board (CAB). Just as it was in past years, activities will be happening on the lawn of Founders and the academic corridor, while maintaining Covid-19 guidelines. Committee Co-Chair Meg Varley reviewed the procedures for the event and what is to be expected from all in attendance. “Everyone is required to wear their masks even though we are outdoors we are still requiring that and we’ll have hand sanitizer,” Varley said. Not only does CAB have its own protocols to follow, but the company that they are bringing in has their own as well. Unfortunately, this year there will not be food trucks, however, there will be other prepackaged food items available for attendees, such as ice cream treats. There will also be all-new activities for students that differ from years past. This year CAB is introducing zip-lining.

“It’s going to be down the academic corridor which is going to be so fun because you don’t really see that a lot—it’s something different,” Varley said. “We’re also having a swing ride, a putt-putt course and a ninja warrior course.” There are some things to note for those who are planning to come to the event. “On the backside of Founders, close to the quad, [there will be a] check-in table. Everyone needs to be scanned into the event so that we can track attendance,” Varley said. “That’s also where they [attendees] will receive a ticket for ice cream and a t-shirt...” Also, things like book bags and water bottles are not allowed in the event. If there are bags or drinks brought to the check-in table, attendees will be asked to put them back in their rooms. For those who may be debating on going to the activities, CAB members ensure that this event will be as safe as possible. “It is going to be outside so it will be easy to social distance. We’re going to have monitors for lines if it gets super crazy... We’re going to try to make it as safe and fun as possible.”

Finalized plans for May commencement

ALAYNA ROSS
Reporter

Ashland University’s Spring 2021 Commencement will be held May 8, in the Dwight Schar Athletic Complex’s Miller Stadium. Students who graduated in the spring, summer and fall of 2020 are invited to attend and participate in the ceremony. AU’s Spring 2021 Commencement will be the first ceremony since winter 2019. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, AU postponed graduation for spring 2020, summer and fall of 2020. Graduates from 2020 were honored on social media and had their respective virtual graduations. However, it was clear that students were willing to wait to have an in-person commencement. “They wanted to wait, even if it took as long as it’s taken, to prepare for something that would really honor them in a way that they could participate,” President

Campo said. This commencement will look much different than past graduations. The AU website states that all attendees and graduates are required to wear face masks and follow the social distancing guidelines set by the state of Ohio. “Face masks must be worn at all times. There will be no handshaking during the conferring of degrees,” AU’s website said. In addition, tickets have been limited to only two per graduate and there will not be extra ticket sales on the day of the event. Mark Britton, AU registrar, noted that the event will be livestreamed for those family members who will not be able to attend. “I know that having only two tickets is tough for some students, but we will be live streaming the ceremony so student’s families can watch at home, in the hotel room or even across the country,” Britton said. Spring 2021 Commencement will

take place, rain or shine, due to the lack of an indoor space that can accommodate Ohio’s social distancing and mass gathering protocols. “Graduates will be permitted to have an umbrella in the event that it rains,” Britton said. “I would also suggest getting a clear poncho to cover your gown to keep at least a little bit dry.” Tickets are available for in-person pick-up at the Registrar’s Office located on the second floor of Founders Hall. Students who are unable to come to campus to pick up tickets should email regis@ashland.edu by April 23 to arrange for tickets to be mailed. There will also be a “will call” at ticket booths at the entrance to the stadium beginning 90 minutes prior to the event. For more information regarding Spring 2021 Commencement, visit AU’s website or call the Registrar’s Office at 419-289-5666.