



PHOTOS BY ALLIE HAMBRIGHT



**LEAN ON ME,** Elaina Irving '18 comforts Meg Moreland '18 after she shares troubling news. "SPIT is a great organization for students to come together and create something that is completely their own," Irving said.

**EASY DOES IT,** Cade Koch '18 offers advice to Brandon Burkhardt '18 after his girlfriend breaks up with him. "This year was my favorite SPIT show because it was a drama but had some comedy in it, too," Burkhardt said. "In the end, it really left you thinking."

**WHERE ARE WE?** Marijke Nielsen '19 and Brandon Burkhardt '18 arrive at the subway station after a car accident kills both of their characters.

**AN OLD MAN'S ADVICE,** Aaron Kruger '18 sits up at his bench as he explains how he felt he had lived his life to the fullest.



**THE STARE-DOWN,** Lucy Polyak '18, Olivia Manaligod '18 and Sean Harken '21 attempt to figure out where they are, how they got there and what they plan on doing next.



**WORST FIRST DATE EVER!** Lauren Upchurch '19 flings underwear at Ella Schmitz '18. "At SPIT callbacks, I clapped my thighs on stage, and that goofiness kind of assigned me to my part," Upchurch said. "Also my willingness to eat a raw onion."

**YOU'RE HOW OLD?** Ella Schmitz '18 twirls the hat of her date, Jackson Elkins '18, who is much younger than expected. "It was really hard to not laugh when I had to just sit there and watch him chug an entire juice pouch," Schmitz said. "But mostly I was just jealous because I didn't get one."

**SHE DID WHAT?** Psychic Megan Schneider '18 licks the foot of Samer Suleman '18, claiming that reading one's foot is more effective than reading one's palm.

**TOUGH LOSS,** Sam Sunderland '19 screams at his date (Samer Suleman) about the Chicago Bears losing a football game he'd been watching throughout the date.



# check please! I COMEDY I

**17 WAYS A DATE COULD GO WRONG** was the theme of a comedy directed by seniors Heidi Vogts and Ethan Seylar.

"The great thing about comedy roles is there is always a 'tick' to give your character to put it over the top," Sasha Tyler '18 said. "Whenever [my character] Celeste thought of her ex, she would eat her hair."

Despite the audience laughing throughout the play, the 16 actors tried not to break character.

"When the audience is laughing, it makes it much harder to stay serious, but they did a great job," Vogts said. "[Parts like] when Megan [Schneider '18] licked Samer's [Suleman '18] foot, when Lauren [Upchurch '19] ate a raw onion on stage, and when Bre [Bradshaw '18] stuffed spaghetti down her shirt."

Settling nerves of new actors presented the directors with a challenge.

"Some people were new to theater completely," Seylar said. "A lot of it was giving them the confidence to project and know they're funny."

One of those newbies was Suleman, who played the lead Guy character.

"I decided to make my debut to acting this year in SPIT," he said. "The laughs and friends I made, made it memorable."

—By Allie Hambright & Julia Austin



# tracks | DRAMA I

**A STUDENT-DIRECTED CAST** of 10 students delivered a heart-wrenching performance on Jan. 12 and 15 that left the audience thinking about life.

"There's a high school boyfriend and girlfriend, and their storyline is really interesting because it's his fault that she got killed, but indirectly," director Paige Harken '18 said. "He didn't fix the parking brake in his car, and it like rolled down a hill and that's what killed them. And the storyline is just so sad, but Brandon [Burkhardt '18], and Marijke [Nielsen '19] did an amazing job with it. So it was just a very emotional and a proud parent moment for me."

Since SPIT is a big part of West's theater program, these students were excited to carry on the tradition.

"SPIT is fun because it is u.nlike most theater," Burkhardt said. "We all really work together to make our own show and to make it a student-run project."

The show offered cast members a chance to express themselves in new ways.

"I really loved to see people come out of their shells," director Callie Dains '18 said. "There's people in SPIT that aren't like on the main stage a lot, so to watch them be amazing was so great."

## 150 STUDENT PRODUCED INNOVATIVE THEATRE

9 **COLOR** Run Prepare for Submission for Color ID information.

TCID: OR Slate, PANTONE Bright Red U, OR Granite, OR Dew

LMCID:

Names of tagged colors should appear in this box.

Job No. 005712 Page No. 150 (even pages)

School Name: Iowa City West

Edge of page is the inside edge of gray border. Bleed elements should extend to outside edge of gray border. School name and job number should be entered on the master pages.

Job No. 005712 Page No. 151 (odd pages)

School Name: Iowa City West

Edge of page is the inside edge of gray border. Bleed elements should extend to outside edge of gray border. School name and job number should be entered on the master pages.

9 **COLOR** Run Prepare for Submission for Color ID information.

RCID: PANTONE Bright Red U, OR Granite, OR Slate

RMCID:

Names of tagged colors should appear in this box.