

# The Gravy Infusion

## Ezell Crew at Convo



Photo by Erika Wilson

## Class Reflections on *Ezell: Ballad of a Land Man*

This Spring, Bob Martin (Clear Creek Creative) and Chris Green (Director of the Appalachian Center) created a once-in-a-lifetime class experience for nine Berea College students, where they were involved in the production process of producing *Ezell, Ballad of a Land Man*. Here's what they had to say:

*"Ezell taught me that love exists where you plant your feet. Telling your story is not just for the benefit of other people, it is a chance to move your feet and spread your love."*

Ainsley

*"This class was gratitude. This class was acceptance and serenity even when the days blurred in to one. It was comfort and community even when the walls holding us didn't resemble those of our classroom."*

Nishat

*"Overall being part of the Ezell team has been the highlight of my semester. Everyone cared for everyone and wanted to build a unique experience that would spread that care to others."*

Zeke

*"Ezell, in the midst of a scramble to finish the semester, you called me into the stillness of the woods. At the end of my time as a Berea College student, when all I could see was my finals, you demanded my attention, not for yourself, but for the world around me."*

Haley

*"What I am taking with me is the importance of Community. This class is a community and so is the Ezell team. I wonder if things would have been different for Ezell Parsons if he had a community."*

Jasmine

*"Being able to finally see and experience the full Ezell experience made me cry a little. There were parts of Ezell that I saw in myself and my loved ones."*

Hannah

*"We all worked so hard, and I believe that was shown through the fruit of the show. I kept hearing people talk about the performance and how they'd never experienced anything like it."*

Idalia

*"I had never experienced such a lovely environment in a class before this one, in which the attention is given in the growing humanely more than academically."*

Olivia

*"Something so interesting I've learned from working on this project is the idea of a land and place holding you, and of being a sort of entity that can welcome you or not, depending on how you care for it."*

Caoimhe

You can read the full, remarkable reflections of [Hannah](#) and [Ainsley](#) on our blog *The Gravy*.



# Spring Highlights

This spring was full of joyous, affirming in-person celebrations, which we all needed after two hard years of isolation during the pandemic. We were truly privileged to collaborate with so many wonderful organizations and people on and off campus. Here are a few of the highlights! Click the boxes to learn more about each highlight.

Appalachian Themed  
Putt-Putt Golf Course



Appalachian Studies  
Association Conference



Awareness, Recovery and  
Hope Program with MORE



Service Convocation with Michael  
Maloney and Jane Stephenson



National Book Foundation  
Reading



Women of Appalachia  
Reading and Poetry Night



The Grapevine  
Weekly Gatherings for Crafts



Appalachian Male Initiative  
Graduates



Contested Threads  
Exhibit on Ukraine



Stay tuned: our next issue features Appalachian accolades and awards for Berea Students and more!