FROM THE FRONT

"Friday has arrived, and it came just in time"
YOM SHISHI HADAG NAHASH

'Come from Away' to play through Sunday

MAINSTAGE FROM PAGE 1

Brian Clemente, a freelance theater director from upstate New York who is making his Yale debut.

Clemente recalled being struck by the musical's emotional range the first time he watched it.

"I was laughing hysterically one moment, in tears the next," he said. "It was a wild ride of emotions that left me feeling so joyful and I couldn't believe it was a true story."

The director said the show strikes "the perfect amount of humor, music and heaviness." Rather than focusing exclusively on the tragedy that brought plane passengers to Gander, he said, it draws attention to the ordinary people whose acts of kindness transformed an extraordinary situation.

"I wanted to base this production around the community aspect," Clemente said. "We are watching a group of actors tell a story about a community."

Tybee Feiler '27, who co-choreographed the musical with her twin sister Eden Feiler '27, also emphasized the importance of community in her creative process.

Tybee, who said she had seen "Come From Away" four times before the Dramat announced its production, said one of the musical's most compelling features is the relationship between performers, objects and the audience.

"The actors sitting in the chairs are sharing the same position of the audience members watching, sitting in the theatre," she said. "It's like a community that extends beyond the fourth wall in many ways."

Currie said that a sense of community also pervaded the production process, since the show "wouldn't feel earnest and real without the community we have behind the scenes."

The show's music plays a central role in transporting audiences to Newfoundland.

"Come From Away" draws on Celtic folk traditions, incorporating instruments and sounds that are uncommon in Yale theater productions. Currie said finding musicians and sourcing the necessary instruments presented an unusual challenge for the production team.

"The show has about a dozen different folk whistles, and we also looked for a bodhran drum," Currie said, referring to the traditional Irish frame drum.

Preserving the musical's distinctive sound was a priority, she said, because the instruments not only establish setting but also carry much of the story's emotional weight. She said the music helps capture both the warmth of the townspeople and the uncertainty felt by the stranded passengers.

"Come From Away" premiered in 2013 at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario.

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Andre Chavez / Contributing Photographer
The fall mainstage, which will run from Thursday to Saturday, brings the true story of a small Canadian town where thousands of travelers found themselves stranded after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Yale comments against proposal



Claire Salisbury / Contributing Photographer
The Trump administration is attempting to place a $70,000 fee on F-1 visa holders seeking to stay in the United States after their education. Some international students told the News they are now seeking post-graduate opportunities outside the U.S.

FEE FROM PAGE 1

ICE is seeking public comments on the fee — a required step in the federal rulemaking process — and hundreds of Yalies, including undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, professors and the University itself submitted comments opposing the rule. Yale's top lawyer Alexander Dreier LAW '95 opposed the rule in a statement to ICE on behalf of the University.

According to Dreier, the proposed rule would generate $68 million in new costs annually for Yale if the University foots the bill for the 1,325 affiliates who participated in OPT.

"Yale has not decided who would bear these costs if the rule were finalized," Dreier wrote. "Yale could not pay $68 million a year without significant cuts to financial aid and research."

While the fee is on the institution sponsoring the OPT, the government suggested that universities can pass on the cost to employers or the students. In his letter, Dreier said Yale is the largest employer of its students applying for OPT. Additionally, Yale cannot bind employers to pay the fee on their behalf since "the University has no leverage," and students and alumni are rarely able to pay the fee, Dreier wrote.

"If Yale passed the post-completion OPT fee on to students, a $70,000 charge would equal or exceed a full year of graduate tuition and living costs for most of them," Dreier wrote. "Students would have unequal access to training based solely on whether they could pay."

In addition to the comment opposing the rule, Yale's lobbyists have advocated against the rule and sought to block the fee, along with a slew of other Trump administration immigration policies that would make it more difficult for international students to study and work in the U.S.

Sasha Tabachnikova GRD '26, a vice president of the UNITE HERE Local 33 union and doctoral candidate in immunobiology, said that students in her program typically make a stipend of $52,000 a year and that it would be impossible for many to pay the $70,000 for OPT. The union solicited comments from its members, and over 200 commented through the union's form, according to Tabachnikova's tally as of Tuesday afternoon.

Many domestic and international students also submitted comments. The Yale College Council and Graduate and Professional Student Senate sent emails asking for comments to support international students.

Cole Graber-Mitchell LAW '29 said his small group — a cohort of around 18 first-year law students who take classes together — got together over donut holes to write comments opposing the rule. He said they were inspired after an international member of the cohort described how the OPT rule could affect her.

Mario Pena-Hernandez, an international postdoctoral researcher at the Yale School of Medicine, said the Trump administration's regulations affect everything from his job to whether he goes to Mexico to visit his family for Christmas.

Pena-Hernandez said he received OPT status last May and described the application process as "straightforward." As a STEM student, he could be eligible for the STEM OPT extension; around half of Yale OPT recipients receive the STEM extension, according to Dreier's comment.

"If this rule goes into effect, the U.S. will be very damaged," Pena-Hernandez said. "It will be losing all these minds that come from the outside world to try to make a change and try to make a big, positive impact in the country."

ICE has defended the fee, arguing that universities or companies that want to sponsor the best minds should financially vouch for them. The agency and administration has also argued that foreign students are undercutting American workers and students' wages.

Yan said even the most qualified international students would be forced to justify a $70,000 investment up front.

"Even if international students can produce this margin in the long run, it's asking the company to pay upfront," Yan said. "This will still be too large a liability."

Yan and Pena-Hernandez said that since the rule was proposed, they have begun thinking about working at universities abroad instead of staying in the U.S. Another international student, Marissa Ma GRD '27, said she has not considered what she would do if the rule goes into effect, which she called the "worst case scenario."

Tabachnikova said she hopes the rule will face legal challenges. In his comment, Dreier argued the fee exceeded ICE and the executive branch's authority.

"Congress has limited the fees DHS may charge for the student program and for immigration adjudications to the costs of providing those services," Dreier wrote, arguing that they are an "unauthorized tax."

ICE is now required by law to review the comments and address "significant" concerns raised by the public. The agency can then release a final rule or withdraw it. Yale and higher education lobbyists are urging Congress to block the rule — as they did with a Trump administration framework for federal research grants earlier this year. Higher education organizations have also had success securing injunctions against changes to international student immigration.

The comment period ended on Monday, Nov. 9.

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Federal agents smashed window before arresting man

ICE FROM PAGE 1

man with the same name is currently in ICE custody.

Between October 2025 and January of this year, federal immigration enforcement agents arrested at least three people inside and around the downtown courthouse. Since President Donald Trump took office last January, ICE has made similar arrests at court buildings across the country and elsewhere in Connecticut.

Katie Flemming '28, a volunteer with ULA, said in a phone interview that she and other volunteers walked in the area around the courthouse Tuesday morning during the man's hearing, looking for "suspicious" people or vehicles in the vicinity.

Flemming said she parted ways with the man on the steps of the courthouse on Elm Street and watched him enter another volunteer's car to drive home around 11 a.m.

Fifteen minutes later, Flemming said, she received a message in a group chat that ICE agents had broken the car's backseat window and arrested the man they were transporting. The driver was also an ULA volunteer, Flemming said.

Lugo also said that the ICE agents shattered the volunteer's backseat window and that the agents forced the door open and dragged the detainee out of the car and into one of their vehicles. Lugo said that the other man in the car — whom the agents appeared to drag out of the passenger seat and throw to the ground — was the detainee's family member.

The video footage shows the agents dragging another man out of the passenger seat of the car by his collar and throwing him on the ground.

Flemming, referencing text messages in the volunteer group chat, said ICE agents called the volunteer driver a "f---ing b----" and punched the detainee's family member in the head.

In response to questions about the arrest, whether agents punched the detainee's father and whether agents swore at the volunteer driver, the Department of Homeland Security wrote in a statement that it does not disclose its operations, citing concerns about "operational security and the safety of our officers."

The New Haven County Courthouse is located at 121 Elm St.

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Garrett Lee Curtis / Photography Editor
Federal agents smashed the backseat window of a car while arresting a man on State Street Tuesday morning, footage shows. The video also shows agents throwing another man, whom activists have identified as the detainee's relative, to the ground.