

ACTING UP

October 2017

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Freshman Mixer

By Catherine Rice

This year, the Drama Club hosted their annual freshman mixer on August 30th and it was a blast! After the freshman were finished with Ignition's orientation we invited them up to room 381 so they could learn what Drama Club was all about! They were able to talk with present Drama Club members about what goes on throughout the year and how they could get involved in the different Drama Club events. We even had performances that included our amazing Improv Troupe playing two different interactive games. The first game they played was Beastie Rap where they took a name from the audience and were able to make a sort of rap with it. They also

played "Sound Effects" where they picked two audience members who had to create the sound effects for the scene that is being performed by the two improv members. We also had an amazing musical performance from Evelyn Beltrani and Kevin Bie who sang "What Was Good Enough For You" from the musical "Bonnie and Clyde". After both of these performances we concluded the meeting and offered schedule walk throughs for any freshmen who wanted one. It was amazing to see all the new faces mingling with current members of the club and to see so many smiling faces in such a happy environment. Can't wait to see what other fun events Drama Club will be hosting this year

**STAGE THE
CHANGE**
THE ARTS AS A SOCIAL VOICE
5th Annual Conference
**Friday,
November 3, 2017**
8 am - 3 pm
Tilles Center for the Performing Arts
LIU Post

Come to this year's Safe Halloween on October 28th and visit room 381 to see Drama Club perform its version of *The Addams Family!*

Joining Drama Club

By Angelina Mercurio

One of the best decisions I have made in high school so far was joining drama club. I have always loved theatre and always wanted to be a part of an organization in school full of people who felt the same way, which is just what drama club is. I had a few friends already in the club before joining but I have made so many friends and connected with so many people I

Intro to Theatre

By Isabella Nuzzo

An informative learning experience for me was the class I took as a freshman, intro to theatre. This class helped me explore many elements of theatre such as set design and the ability to write plays. When taking this course, I stepped out of my comfort zone by exploring these different elements since I was normally used to mostly just acting. Teamwork was also a big part of this class since for some assignments we were paired with people we didn't normally talk to, making communication essential to doing well. We also explored the history of theatre throughout the year and learned how the art of theatre has developed and changed

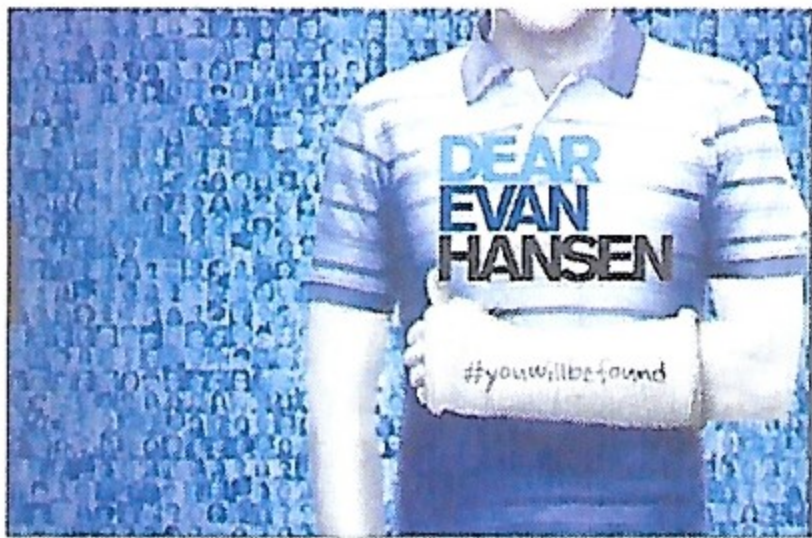
never thought I would. All of the upperclassmen welcomed me and the other freshman with open arms and made me feel extremely comfortable in room 381, making it feel like a second home. There are so many drama club activities so there's always a reason to stay after school, one of my favorites being the musical. I love musical theatre and doing the musical was a really great opportunity to make friends and memories. I love drama club and I am really glad that I decided to get involved. I highly recommend it!

while practicing techniques created by old directors and actors. This class was important to me because it created a foundation where I could reach out of my comfort zone and feel safe and not judged. This class has also allowed me to expand my knowledge of theatre history while practicing current works of theatre and educating myself about them. In room 381, we are allowed to use our voices as means of expression in our projects, something very special and exclusive to this classroom. While many classes suppress social issues and discourage kids from speaking up about them, theatre teaches kids to harness these issues and create art. I found intro to theatre to be a very important class and I encourage students to take it.

Seeing the Blockbusters

By David Fresolone

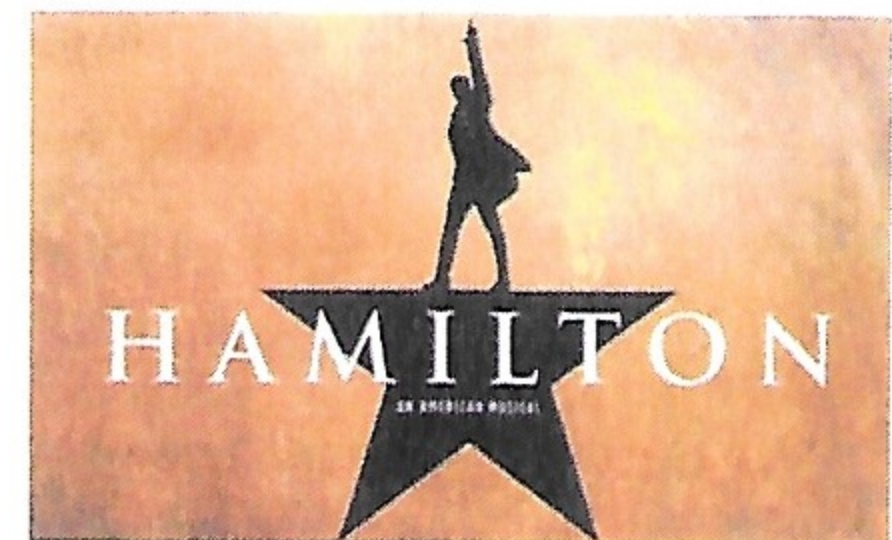
The last two years of my theatre life and education have been years of great growth and frankly, enlightenment. I, like many others, love to see live productions. Regardless of the show, I find solace in watching a live theatre



performance. Due to that, I think it's safe to say that I frequent the theatre quite often. For most people who are less familiar with the

theatre scene, particularly Broadway, they often are only familiar with the large-name shows such as *Hamilton* and *Dear Evan Hansen*... both of which I have seen. I don't mean to write this braggingly but instead, graciously. Due to the astounding philanthropy of my parents and the tenacity of a friend, I have had the absolute pleasure and privilege of seeing both of these shows live on Broadway. I am ever thankful for my opportunities to see these truly amazing shows. Though, the question is naturally asked, "Did they live up to the hype?". And so, the answer is always a resounding "Yes!". Indeed, the shows have been blown up to huge proportions,

sometimes being labeled the "best show ever", or "life changing". While I can't necessarily describe the shows like that, I can say with confidence that both these shows were absolute spectacles. *Hamilton*, Lin-Manuel Miranda's hit musical, was an incredible show. I loved every bit of it when I saw it during the summer of 2016. Its music was just as toe-tapping and catchy as it was on the recording. Then there's *Dear Evan Hansen*, a small casted, heartfelt musical that's relatively new to Broadway. It was also extremely moving and its music was even better in person. I had studied its score less than I had that of *Hamilton*, so I first discovered some of its music while seeing the show. In addition, there were serious water works during the show. Like, really, my eyes were like two tiny geysers. That is the great thing about seeing shows in person; the show is just so much more impactful. So, I recommend that each and every one



of you see a show! It doesn't have to be on Broadway, it could be at your local theatre. Support theatre because even if it doesn't for you, it can deeply impact just one person, like me. Thank you for reading my story!

What I Learned and Experienced at NYSSSA

By René Kozlowski

This summer, I got to experience one of the most amazing opportunities I've had so far, NYSSSA. You may ask, what is NYSSSA? NYSSSA is a four week theatre conservatory program upstate where you get to work with some absolutely AMAZING coaches, learn some of the most famous theatre teaching techniques (such as Meisner and Chekhov), and meet some amazing peers and counselors. Walking into NYSSSA, I of course wanted to become a better actress and improve my skills, but I never would have thought that I'd also grow as a person, expanding my view of the world and my appreciation for the people and things around me. Being in a conservatory for a month, you will have to be around a lot of new people and it might seem terrifying at first (it was for me) but in the end, I not only saw these people as peers, but friends and family, and people I hope to forever cherish in my life. We

learned so many acting techniques such as repetition, improvisational skills, "bringing down the ring", taking inventory, the 3 way door technique, and so many more. We also had some absolutely amazing workshops, such as tango, playwriting workshops, and audition workshops and we got to work with some amazing people like John Astin (the original Gomez in the Addams family), Rick and Christian Sordet (stage combat), and Kyle Bass (playwright). We also got to experience some amazing performances, read through plays such as "Seegar", and see the now closed Broadway play "Indecent" which was absolutely amazing and an experience that I'll never forget. During the middle of NYSSSA, we were assigned scenes and coaches and I was paired with James Luse. From this, I learned so much about acting in the moment, living truthfully under imaginary circumstances, and letting my true emotions shine through and it was so amazing. NYSSSA was truly one of the best things I've experienced and I highly recommend it to anyone. If you are thinking of auditioning, do it! You won't regret it.

Beyond the Actors

By Margaret DiFlora

When thinking about the productions at the high school, most people automatically just think about the actors and not about the other major factors involved. Each production performed at the school involves many additional people behind the scenes. Without these people, the shows would not be possible. One particularly important behind the scenes group is the stage managers, a group of talented students who work side by side with the cast and crew to make the shows come together. Depending on the nature of the show, the stage managers work backstage calling the curtain and controlling the movement of all of the set pieces. They also work in the sound booth controlling the mics and the sound effects,

and in the lighting booth, doing the lighting for all of the scenes. Stage managing is not an easy task at all. I first got involved with stage managing during the fall drama *Up the Down Staircase* and I really enjoyed working with the cast and having all the responsibilities that came with the job. I had decided that working backstage was not for me so I tried sound for the fall drama and loved the experience. It was perfect for me. Not only do I stage manage the shows but I have also been involved in costuming since the fall drama *Inherit the Wind*. I work beside Mrs. Alifano with the costumes, sewing them, fixing the mishaps on them, or trying to find that one good dress. No matter what you get involved in to help make the shows become the best that they can be you'll have an amazing time plus you will make great memories and friendships that will just continue to grow and last a lifetime.

Acting Up Production:

Danielle Gerardi, Melanie Weisberg, and Henry Sweeney,
Co-Editors in Chief

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All Those in Attendance, for your support of the Arts at Hauppauge High School