

Once On This Island



Gods and Goddesses

Above Photos from Top to Bottom:
Senior Sam White playing Asaka, Mother of the Earth.
Sophomore Sophia Andrews playing Erzulie, Goddess of Love.
Senior Quinnie Rodman playing Papa Ge, God of Death.
Sophomore Leah Kaminsky playing Agwe, God of Water.
Photos by Maddie Naeve.

A Mask and a Smile

Senior Alina Merlak smiles at Sam White, who guides her on her journey to find Daniel in *Once on This Island*. Photo by Maddie Naeve.

Part of the Action

Performing on a Different Style Stage By Maddie Naeve

The audience rows were empty the night of the performance. Normally this would be a problem, but not for the musical *Once on This Island*, as the seats were located on the stage surrounding the performers. Only 60 tickets were available for each performance, and all three performances sold out.

The musical was performed on Sept. 14 and 15 in a thrust stage setting, a stage in which the audience sits on three sides of the performers. Because the performance is in such a tight area the actors have to adjust their acting techniques.

"It's harder in a sense because

being on stage you know that every movement is seen by the audience, but that also makes it easier because the audience can focus on specific people and see the characters' facial expressions easier," said senior Quinnie Rodman who portrayed Papa Ge (the god of death).

The musical is centered around a young girl named Ty Moune, played by senior Alina Merlak, washed up on an island and found by an elderly couple. She falls in love with a boy from the rich part of the island, but her decisions to pursue him are being chosen by the gods. "The story line is cool because it is told like a story book, and we begin in a circle and Maddy Steen starts reading the book," said Merlak.

The cast taught a one-day performance workshop for fourth through eighth graders in January. The workshop was fundraiser to attend the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska in June.

Fall Musical

Right: Senior Sam White performs a song as the Mother of Earth alongside sophomore Sophia Andrews playing the Goddess of Love, Quinnie Rodman playing the God of Death, and Leah Kaminsky playing the God of Water Photo by Maddie Naeve.



The Cast of the Show

Front Rows: Sam White, Quinnie Rodman, Ashlyn Steen, Alina Merlak, Row 2: Lauren Kalm, Ellie Crock, Kaylynn Burgin, Back Row: Maddy Steen, Jeremy Ferguson, Sophia Andrews, Leah Kaminsky, Ty Fall. Photo by Maddie Naeve.



Preparation and Performance

Above: Freshman Ashlyn Steen links arms with junior Ty Fall while they go on a stroll
Above Right: Seniors, Alina Merlak and Maddie Steen prepare for their performance together.
Left: Senior Maddie Steen presents the *Once on This Island* book to the rest of the cast.
Photos by Maddie Naeve.

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