

TRIM LINE

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



Josie Ellis '16 knew that acting was no easy task, but practice truly does make perfect. "I've done seven plays in high school not including Arsenic and Old Lace, but being able to watch and take ideas from upperclassmen before me really helped me better myself. It also helped me learn the ropes of drama so I knew how to react to different situations that arose," said Ellis.



For Zach Schaben '16, the experience from his past six plays and musicals was one of the key factors when it came to the Lewis Central production of Arsenic and Old Lace. "Since it was my seventh time doing this (performing), I was able to feel more comfortable on stage. That confidence and mindset really helped my performance tremendously," said Schaben.



Even though show biz wasn't a new experience for Nik Johnson '18, his third performance at Lewis Central had its differences. "It (Arsenic and Old Lace) was definitely a different experience because it was one play rather than three, one-acts. I was familiar with Mr. McLaughlin's directing style though, so I knew what it took to be successful," said Johnson.



For veteran Olivia Behm '17, her fifth show at Lewis Central was a breeze. "My past experiences in drama with Mr. McLaughlin have helped a lot because there needs to be leaders in the program who know what they're doing. It's easier when the "veterans" can show the newbies the ropes and how things are done and the do's and don'ts of the drama world," said Behm.



Georgia Androy '16 came into "Arsenic and Old Lace" with a little less experience than the other performers, but it didn't stop her from giving us an incredible performance. "I didn't know a lot about acting and drama, but I learned a lot from my peers during last year's musical. Mr. McLaughlin is also a great drama teacher and helped me feel more confident in my acting skills," said Androy.



With four past performances under his belt, including "Our Town," "Comedy Tonight," "Legally Blonde" and "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," Artur Melika '17 proved he was no newbie to acting. This was shown through his incredible performance of his character Johnathan in the hilarious production of Arsenic and Old Lace, which brought laughter to all who attended.

WHAT IF...

Every social activity came with the fear of messing up (and performing was no exception), but Nolan King '18 had a game plan for what to do if the worst happened. "You've just got to adapt to the situation. If your beard falls off, just add in a line about how you had time to shave, and if something breaks, use it to fuel the conflict that's already happening. Like they say, the show must go on," said King.



Forgetting lines during a performance seems like it would be bad, but Jordan Dickinson '18 knew how to recover from the situation. "You just have to keep going and stay in character no matter what. Hopefully someone on stage will help you recover until you remember, and we practice before the show so in case lines are dropped in a performance, you'll know how to handle it," said Dickinson.



IT'S CLASSIFIED



Patrick Bicket '16

"The audience never really notices when misspeaks happen, but there were a couple that were dropped during the rehearsal. One of the better ones was when most of the cast cringed while we were using the starter pistol and someone said 'Oh, man up already' and it was so funny we kept it."



Paige Hickey '17

"Something that most people don't know is that we have safe words, and if anyone is overreacting we say the safe word. Also if we ever talk about 'Menards Runs,' it's code for waking up before sunrise on Saturday mornings to buy supplies for Tech Days, which are the set building days."



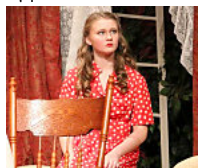
Austin Dunham '17

"We don't really have any secrets that we don't want people to know about. There were a couple lines that got messed up during the show but that will happen no matter what. As for theater terms, we have stage directions like up stage, down stage, stage left and stage right."

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BREAK A LEG, MR. HECKMAN

Lewis Central Says Goodbye

Every passing year brought many greetings and even more farewells. Seniors walked before the crowds for their senior nights, finals and other assessments were studied for and completed, and underclassmen celebrated getting one year closer to graduation. One of the hardest farewell's, however, might have been saying goodbye to Lewis Central's Co-Director, Mr. Heckman. Brent Malskeit '17 was one who knew him well, and who knew his leaving would have a lasting impact on the program. "Mr. Heckman has worked with the drama department at Lewis Central for many, many years. He impacted the drama program by bringing light to every rehearsal and he never failed to make us laugh and help us be the best we could be," said Malskeit. Mr. Heckman's absence will be missed by not only the drama department, but by the student body as well. Courtney Kelly '18 had two years to get to know Mr. Heckman, and he was someone she was going to miss being around. "He's made a huge impact on the department. He has a way of making people feel at home and he connects really well with everyone. We all love him and he's always a good laugh and a friend to lean on. He makes the drama department so much more fun and we're definitely going to miss him being around," said Kelly.

Knowing it would be the last chance they got with Mr. Heckman, the cast of "Arsenic and Old Lace" put every effort into making the fall play one to remember. As the final curtain fell, Lewis Central's Co-Director bid his final farewells, with everyone wishing him the best of luck. Break a leg, Mr. Heckman.



JUST GO FOR IT

Playing a different person isn't as easy as Zach Schaben '16 made it look. "I try and focus on what my character would do and then I just go for it. It really helps and it makes the performance more fun," said Schaben.

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PICTURE PERFECT

Along with memorizing lines, Josie Ellis '16 has many other tasks to perform to get ready for opening night. "It took me about an hour and a half to get ready, but I didn't do any of it myself. I had many people doing my hair and some makeup captains did my makeup," said Ellis

READY ON SET

The set for the fall play was nothing less than perfection, and according to Mason Jones '16, it's not a surprise. "For about eight weeks before the play we usually worked for three hours everyday and sometimes up to twelve hours on Saturday's to get it ready," said Jones.

BEHIND THE SCENES

"Arsenic and Old Lace" took a lot of teamwork and behind the scenes action, and Courtney Kelly '18 knew that better than anyone. "I was the assistant stage manager and I ran the soundboard, and I had to make sure the lights and sounds were together," said Kelly.



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