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Guys and Dolls

Alex Kerai

Webmaster, Junior

It's the tried-and-true story that pits men versus women, comparing their ideals and priorities while asking how the two have managed to live together in harmony thus far. Frank Loesser's classic musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls*, reports back that for everything a guy does, he's "only doing it for some doll." Adapted from Damon Runyon's popular stories about New York City life and the characters that occupy it, *Guys and Dolls* spins a yarn about two couples, their distinct differences, and the "oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York." It first premiered on Broadway in 1950, won the Tony Award for Best Musical, and since then it has established itself as one of the most popular musicals ever. For the past three months, the cast of Marblehead High School's *Guys and Dolls* have been rehearsing up to five times a

week. The cast is made up of students from all grades, with Jacob Sundlie and Alec Glass in the main male roles, as Sky Master-son and Nathan Detroit respectively, and Annie Krivit and Libby Jancsy in the main female roles, as Sister Sarah and Miss Adelaide respectively. There are a whole host of supporting characters from all aspects of New York life: there's a mission band, a group of crapshooters (one all the way from Illinois), and cabaret dancers.

Anticipating the moment when the red curtain will rise and the show will begin, the cast and crew have been rehearsing tirelessly for this coming weekend. Directed by Fran Betlyon, with musical direction by Amanda Roeder, and technical direction by Greg Dana, *Guys and Dolls* tells the story of a gambler who needs money to find a place for his illegal crap game and decides to make a bet with another gambler about a certain "mission doll." Of course, nothing goes according to plan, and hilarity ensues as the battle of the sexes comes to a head.

I have been going to rehearsals and working on the show for the past few weeks; I can assure you that in this amusing and romantic musical, the actors on stage (as well as the crew offstage) are having the time of their lives. *Guys and Dolls* is such an enjoyable musical with catchy music and funny character names (Harry the Horse!) that will be remembered long after you have left the theater.

Guys and Dolls is playing this weekend only at the Nelson Aldrich Performing Arts Center, at the Marblehead Veterans School, on 217 Pleasant Street, in Marblehead. It is an experience to be had by all for it is a timeless tale of love and gambling in 1930s New York. Come see for yourself Friday or Saturday night at 7 p.m., or on Sunday at 2 p.m., why this performance of *Guys and Dolls* should not be missed!

Alex Kerai is the lighting designer for *Guys and Dolls*.

Advertisers at War

Drew Faria

Reporter-in-the-Field, Junior

TV viewers, brace yourselves. TVs nationwide are on the verge of exploding with the annual holiday ads. Companies have hit that point in which they feverishly sell us as much inventory as possible. All of us often get swept away in a tsunami of commercialization, and we wash up in stores buying numerous gifts for others and ourselves. It becomes second nature as it happens every year. Of course, gifts for people over the holidays are part of our culture. Imagine being that awkward guy on Christmas during present-opening time who does not have anything to give? The point is we need to be aware that plenty of people around us cannot afford to shop like us.

Every year, our church has a tree from which people can choose a paper ornament. The ornament lists what a specific kid wants for Christmas whose family cannot afford it. Just the other day, my family and I went shopping for some of these people. One of them wanted an iPod, another wanted Barbies, typical 21st century kid stuff. Another family asked for some storybooks for a three year-old. This means that there is a family out there who does not have maybe \$20 to buy some books for their child for one special occasion. Wow. It makes me wonder how different their holidays are from mine. In comparison, we can spend hundreds, if not more, during the holiday season.

This is not to say that we should feel guilty every time we drool at the newest tablet, line of clothing, or smartphone that gloriously reveals itself upon our TV screens. Presents show how much you care about someone, and we all deserve a personal treat, too! We just need to make sure that we consider the fact that there are those who cannot celebrate the holidays in the same way. Companies constantly stray our attention away from this and focus it on the things that those in our lives might enjoy for the holidays. We are their markets, not those who cannot pay for their goods. We need to see through this war between advertisers for our money. For some of us, we might do a little more than just think about the poor. Maybe we can donate a coat or toy this season, or tip the Salvation Army guy with the bell. He has a more important reason to stand there than ringing bells in the cold!

Remembering Mandela

Daniel Rosenberg

Editor-in-Chief, Senior

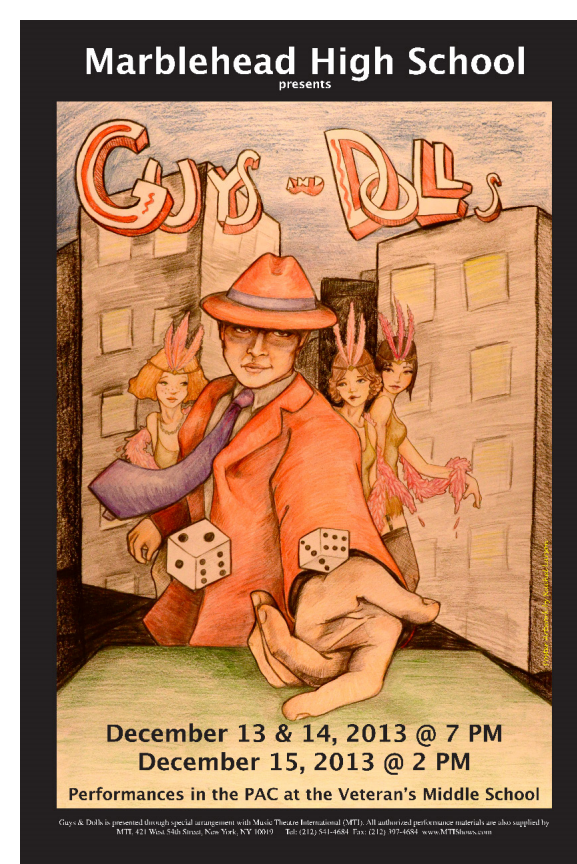
This past week the world lost one of the great ones. Nelson Mandela was a man of such great importance to the world, it almost cannot be measured. The greatest, and saddest, piece of Mandela's story, to me, is how much he had to sacrifice to receive justice. To languish in a prison for 27 years is just unthinkable. What he achieved afterwards, after he had been wrongly imprisoned for so long, is incredible.

The reason Mandela's legacy is so pertinent today is because of the turmoil in the world around us. There are reports every day in countries run by violent, hateful leaders, who suppress the voices of their subjects. Whether it's in North Korea, Syria, or any other country with an oppressive regime, it's too easy to focus on the atrocities being committed. What gets lost is the individuals; the men and women who stand up for what they believe in, and call out for justice amid a sea of hatred.

Nelson Mandela proves that it doesn't matter your background, or the color of your skin; what matters is your voice. What matters is your willingness to stand up for what's right despite seemingly insurmountable odds. The story of Nelson Mandela demonstrates that a single man can have a huge impact, but only if he's willing to do whatever it takes.

Perhaps just as impressive as Mandela's moral compass and incredible desire for equality is his forgiveness of those who had wronged him. Whether it be his many jailers, the government that practiced apartheid, or the many police officers who had brutalized the blacks of Rhodesia, Mandela was always willing to forgive in the pursuit of peace. That's something we can all learn from. Revenge isn't usually the best medicine, especially in regards to politics. Whether on a local, national, or international scale, frequently whenever there is a change in power, the victors attempt to exact revenge on their rivals. But as the success Mandela had in abolishing apartheid teaches us the most productive path is not vengeance, but cooperation. After all, Mandela didn't win the Nobel Peace Prize alone, rather with his former enemy F.W. de Klerk. The Democrats and Republicans could learn a thing or two from Mandela.

The world lost a great leader last week, the likes of which the world will probably never see again. What's important is that we remember his legacy; we remember all that he stood for; we remember that we all must strive for equality; and that one man can make a difference. All it takes is one voice to speak out when something is wrong, and to ask for the rights deserved by every man.



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