



Come See MHS's Production Of *Chicago*!

Lily Morgan, Junior
Reporter

This weekend, singing and dancing meet adultery and murder — prepare to be dazzled by Marblehead High School's production of *Chicago*.

Students in the MHS theater department have been rehearsing (and rehearsing, and rehearsing) for their spring musical *Chicago*. This story of crime and injustice opens with Velma Kelly's (Mari Aoki) rendition of "All That Jazz" in a nightclub in the city of Chicago. As Velma sings of gin, buckle shoes, and shimmying till her garters



break, Roxie Hart (Cameron Saltsman) gets her big break into fame when she shoots and kills ex-boyfriend Fred Casely (Thomas Hancock). Roxie finds herself a prisoner in Cook County Jail with Velma and five other "merry murderesses." Through jazzy music and Fosse dance, MHS students tell the story of Roxie and Velma's quest for freedom — and stardom.

Chicago has something for everybody. The script is jam-packed with drama and comedy. Billy Flynn (Alex Henrich) brings the glitz and glam to the courthouse; the six merry murderesses of Cook County Jail provide a warning to any man who steps out of line; a troupe of dancers sing and dance their way through murders, lies, and deceit with smiles plastered on their faces.

Come support Marblehead's performing arts' students and their production of *Chicago*. Join us this Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Marblehead Veterans Middle School Performing Arts Center for crime, treachery, and all that jazz.

You can buy tickets online by accessing www.ticketstage.com/T/MHSCHOOLS, or you can buy them at the door!



A Heart Full of Song

Alexis Earp, Freshman
Reporter

On April 16th, *Les Misérables* came to the Citizens Bank Opera House in Boston. Despite being met with derision from critics when it first opened in London in 1987, it has become the world's longest running musical. The story follows a convict named Jean Valjean, who is released on parole after 19 years in jail for stealing bread and then trying to escape prison. He breaks parole and is hunted by the obsessive Inspector Javert for years. Since it began in the 1980s, the musical has been performed in 52 countries in 22 different languages. It has also been seen by over 70 million people. In 2009, a new production of the show opened in Cardiff, Wales. This new staging, which includes set pieces inspired by the artwork of Victor Hugo, is currently touring the U.S. The music is the same, besides a few verses that have been cut out or edited here and there. The main difference between the two productions is the lack of the revolving stage. Many of the featured costumes also differ from the ones in the original production.

I was lucky enough to go see the play in Boston on its opening night. Despite the differences from the original production, I thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The cast was phenomenal, and the actors brought life to their characters. Even though the musical is not a happy one, the audience burst into laughter multiple times throughout the show, showing how artfully the actors were able to portray the many sides of their characters.

The role of Jean Valjean is a difficult one. An actor not only has to perform many difficult solos for this role, but also he needs to be able to show Valjean's emotional turmoil from the beginning to the end of the musical. Nick Cartell, who plays Jean Valjean in the U.S. tour, did a fantastic job. The change in his demeanor from the beginning of the show, when Jean Valjean is released from prison and then repeatedly turned away by the people he encounters because

of his past, to the finale, when he asks forgiveness for all the wrongs he did, was astounding. Cartell's versions of Valjean's solos, especially the iconic "Bring Him Home," were superb as well. He did an excellent job of conveying Valjean's feelings and his relationship with his daughter Cosette (Jillian Butler).

Joshua Grosso, who plays Marius Pontmercy, did an outstanding job depicting his character's personality. Whether he was awkwardly stumbling over his words while confessing his love to Cosette, or conveying Marius's despair at the barricade, Grosso's performance was spot-on. Out of all the portrayals of Marius I have seen, from both productions of the musical and other adaptations, Grosso's is easily the most similar to Marius from the novel.

The ensemble in any musical is often overlooked, since the focus is placed upon the major roles, but this ensemble was truly incredible. Many of the actors in the ensemble had small solos in songs such as "At The End Of The Day" and "Do You Hear The People Sing?" They not only sang wonderfully, but they also added another dimension to the show. They have perfected making the background scenes interesting without detracting from the foreground.

Les Misérables is a phenomenal musical, but not everyone gets a chance to see it. However, there is an opportunity to see another wonderful musical coming up. From Friday, April 26th to Sunday, April 28th, students from Marblehead High School will be performing *Chicago* at Marblehead Veterans Middle School. Performance times are listed below:

Friday, April 26th - 7:00 P.M.
Saturday, April 27th - 7:00 P.M.



Poem of the Week

April is National Poetry Month, so during April, *Headlight* will be publishing one poem each issue. Some poems will be written by famous poets, while others will come from Marblehead High School Students. Find our final poem for the month of April below!

"When I consider everything that grows"
By William Shakespeare

When I consider everything that grows
Holds in perfection but a little moment,
That this huge stage presenteth nought but shows
Whereon the stars in secret influence comment;
When I perceive that men as plants increase,
Cheered and check'd even by the selfsame sky,
Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,
And wear their brave state out of memory;
Then the conceit of this inconstant stay
Sets you most rich in youth before my sight,
Where wasteful Time debateth with Decay
To change your day of youth to sullied night;
And all in war with Time for love of you,
As he takes from you, I engraft you new.

GSA Publishes Helpful Booklet

The GSA, Gender Sexuality Alliance, consists of many different ages, sexualities, genders, and backgrounds. Although we can be very noisy and energetic, we are a safe space for both people who are and who aren't LGBTQ+. We meet in A309 after school on Wednesdays.

In April we made a booklet that has been distributed to all of the faculty. This booklet has definitions, helpful guides on how to treat LGBTQ+ students, and articles and other resources that offer more information on the LGBTQ+ community. We believe that education is an important tool, and that it is the best way to fight bigotry. With this booklet, we hope to inform others about their LGBTQ+ students, peers, and coworkers without forcing people into uncomfortable situations. Since information is rapidly changing it is important to regularly update the community, since it has been nearly eight years since the GSA has done something like this.

If you have any questions or are interested in an electronic copy of the booklet please feel free to email Mrs. Dolan at dolan.alisha@marbleheadschoools.org.



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