

PANTHER PLAYBILL



COLLEYVILLE HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE BOOSTER CLUB

A monthly bulletin from the supporters of CHHS Theatre Arts

February 2019

SHAMELESSLY BIASED THEATRE REVIEW

Annie Delights Audiences

Another spectacular CHHS Spring musical is in the books

It's 9:25pm on Saturday, January 26 and inside Panther Auditorium both the stage and the seating are packed with people. It is the final curtain call for **Annie** and the cast, the crew and the orchestra have gathered for bows in front of a cheering crowd. It was clear that the annual musical at CHHS was a huge success. Huge not only because it was enjoyed by so many people, but huge because it *involved* so many people.



The CHHS Fine Arts production of **Annie** was, simply put, Texas-sized. 58 cast members. 24 musicians. 28 crew members. And 4 dogs. There is one dog role in **Annie**. But this one had 4 dogs. That's just how they do things here.

Sometimes quantity will be used as a substitute for quality. But that is not the case with this production of **Annie**. The large cast provided an opportunity to showcase the breadth and depth of talent in the Fine Arts at CHHS. The production numbers were kinetic, filling the expansive set with energetic singing and dancing. You got a real sense that everyone on stage was "all-in" and doing their part to bring the story, the music and the emotions to life.

Continued...



Annie (continued)

The best way to review this enormous production is to break it down into its different parts. So let's do that.

First: The Leads. **WOW!** Kudos to **Jacque Devino**, the show's director, for casting that was spot on. Each of the lead performers was perfect for their role. The acting, singing and dancing were all very strong and showed a level of maturity and nuance that is not usually achieved at the high school level.

Second: The Orphans. **AMAZING!** There are seven scripted orphans in the show, and in this production, there were 10 more. 17 orphans in all. "The Hard Knock Life" and "Never Fully Dressed" numbers were a delightful frenzy of dance, antics and song. The hours of rehearsal and hard work paid off with a great performance that thrilled audiences.

Third: The Ensemble. **IMPRESSIVE!** While these roles may not have been leads, they were no small undertaking. Costume changes. Multiple roles. Big dance numbers. And lots of songs. Through it all, the ensemble brought it all together and created the scenes and the action that kept the show engaging throughout.



Fourth: The Choreography. **FANTASTIC!** Imagine having the task of designing, teaching and performing dance moves for multiple numbers and getting 58 kids to do it. The choreography and the dancing throughout **Annie** were done

extremely well and added just the right movement to each of the performance numbers.

Fifth: The Stagecraft, Costumes and Technical work. **SUPERB!** Scene changes, signs that lit up, a pantomime New York Taxicab, and a bazillion wireless microphones to keep track of all while making sure that the show was seamlessly presented – these were the product of a dedicated and talented crew.

Sixth: The Orchestra. **EXCELLENT!** Talent on stage, talent backstage, and an orchestra pit full of talented musicians. **Annie** is a musical, and it simply will not work if the music isn't right. In addition, striking the right balance and blending the instrumental and vocals together are not an easy task. This production featured great performances from our talented CHHS musicians.

Finally: The Dogs. **GOOD DOGS!** A review of **Annie** would not be complete without mentioning the dogs. One "stray," one fancy lady's dog, and two Sandys. While working with animals can be unpredictable, all the dogs in this show did a great job. Extra treats for them all!

So on that Saturday night as the confetti settled to the stage floor and the house lights came up, the 110 kids on stage deserved to celebrate a great run. Hours of rehearsal, building sets, bringing it all together was now behind them. They did it. And their production of **Annie** shined like the top of the Chrysler building. ♦



A Message from your Booster Club President...

Hello, Panther Theatre Families!

Caroline Walsh

Whew! We are all taking a breather from the spectacular experience that was **Annie**, but some of us more reluctantly than others. It was a huge endeavor and a perfect showcase of all the talent and dedication of our students and directors. I hope you all had a chance to see it at least once – there was a lot to be proud of. Thank you for all your support, whether it was volunteer hours with the set, the students, the tickets, or concessions. We say this all the time, but it truly could not be done without you!

I wanted to mention a quick note in this letter about a couple items we've heard from you all. This year, Panther Theatre has gone green and digital. We understand that a hard copy of the playbill program is a memorable souvenir, which is fun to read before/during the show, and even better to keep afterward. We decided this year that due to many playbills being left behind and not used, it was an expense that we could divert to other necessities. I would like to direct you to www.chspanthertheatre.com, where you can find all the playbills, pictures, and videos. They will be archived here for future nostalgia. Every student in each show will receive two hard copies for posterity.

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President *(continued)*

We appreciate your understanding as we continue to work to provide the best experience while being responsible stewards.

Secondly, the online ticket sales process delivered some consternation, due to the requirement of selecting a specific seat, while in reality, you were choosing an area. We thank you for bearing with us through this. We are very pleased that in the future we will offering online ticket sales through our Booster Club website. This capability will alleviate these confusions, and more importantly, the service charge!

Please see the rest of the newsletter for our next exciting shows in the coming months, and we hope to see you at Booster Club! ♦

GETTING INVOLVED AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Booster Club Volunteers Help Make *Annie* a Success

January's production of *Annie* not only used an army of student performers and technicians, it also had some heavy demands for parent volunteers.

In all, there were 45 volunteer shifts filled during the run of the show and 38 parents and families who donated food and drinks to support our Starving Artist program. And yet again, the Thomas home was invaded for the celebratory cast party.

A sincere THANK YOU to all our Booster Club members and parent volunteers who worked the box office, sold concessions, took tickets and ushered inside the auditorium and assisted backstage. Your involvement and support of the CHHS Theatre Arts is critical and truly appreciated.

The CHHS Theatre Booster Club would like to specially recognize the following volunteers for their ongoing work and tireless contributions:

- Daney QuigleyConcessions Chair
- Tammi ChamplinTicket Sales Chair
- Sandy KellyGala Chair
- Cheryl GanschowMulti-Event Volunteer
- Paul TurnerVideo Production, Booster Club website, *Panther Playbill* bulletin

Please know that we still have programs and volunteer opportunities for the spring. Watch for email and text notifications for future volunteer sign-ups. Thank you! ♦

From the Directors' Chair



Jacquie Devino



Four dogs, 38 helium balloons, 4287 twinkle lights, 816 costume changes, 16 spinning Christmas presents, three broken mops and *Annie* has closed. I don't know if any of us knew how much fun the production would be. The characters, costumes, and creative bits added by our incredibly talented students made the production not only wonderful to watch but a joy to rehearse and produce. Words cannot express how amazing it is to watch our dedicated band and tech students team up with the cast to mesmerize an audience or how grateful I am to have been a part of it.

And now we move on. Our incredibly talented actors have already moved into rehearsals for *Children of Lesser God*, our UIL one act play. Directed by Mr. Faulks, the production asks students to step back to the 1970's and take on the still relevant challenges of inclusion and acceptance. With the assistance of Mr. Deaton, our campus ASL specialist, our actors are learning a whole new language while they tell a beautiful story filled with beautiful words - spoken and unspoken. Mark your calendar and don't miss the production.

Finally, thank you once again to every booster club officer, member and parent who did so much to aid with the massive production of *Annie*. If you haven't already, check out the video link and share with family members who were not able to attend a live show - but please remember there can be no public posting of videos of copyrighted productions. ♦

LOOKING AHEAD...

What's Next for Panther Theatre

The excitement continues with more amazing activity and performances from our CHHS Theatre Arts department. Be sure to mark your calendar and don't miss the following...

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

Performances Thursday, February 28 7:00pm; Friday, March 1 (in school) 12pm & 2pm. Parents invited to attend. Check in at main office. Sunday, March 3, 2pm. All performances in the Black Box Theatre.

Short Film Competition

Teams receive criteria February 15 at 4:30pm and have the long weekend to film. Films will be viewed and a winner chosen on Tuesday, February 19 at 7pm in the Black Box.



Next Theatre Booster Club Meeting
Thursday, March 7 6:30pm
Black Box Theatre



Important Note About Performance Videos

We are pleased to be able to provide videos of the CHHS Theatre productions. These videos are created so that our students can see their performances and our amazing productions can be shared with family and friends who are not able to see our shows in person.

Links to the videos can be found on the CHHS Panther Theatre website at www.chhsanthertheatre.com or you can find them by searching **Turner Video Texas** on YouTube.

If you would like to request a complimentary DVD recording of any of the CHHS productions, please email your request to turnervideotx@gmail.com.

While we are pleased to make these videos available, it is important that videos of the copyrighted productions are not publicly posted.

A link to the Annie video is available on the CHHS Theatre Booster Club website. Visit the Booster Club website at www.chhsanthertheatre.com/booster-club

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



It's All on the Booster Club Website

Online Store & Photo Galleries Recent Additions

The CHHS Theatre Booster Club website continues to grow and it is now THE PLACE where you can get all the latest information about Panther Theatre programs and performances.

A new online store has been added to the website and you can now purchase CHHS Theatre merchandise, pay your booster club membership dues, pay production fees, purchase and place a Good Show advertisement and more! Using the online store is easy, efficient, and payments are all 100% secure. There are no added fees when purchasing through the Online Store. Check it out!

Visit the CHHS Theatre Booster Club Website
www.chhsanthertheatre.com/booster-club

SPECIAL STUDENT-PRODUCED PROGRAM

Fine Arts for a Cause Presents "In Our Mind" on March 7



Fine Arts for a Cause

create. perform. inspire.

CHHS Theatre Director **Jacque Devino** is the faculty sponsor for the student organization **Fine Arts for a Cause**. The organization includes students who are

interested in the performing and visual arts who use theatre, dance, music, spoken word poetry and visual arts to raise awareness and funds for various causes.

Fine Arts for a Cause will present their show entitled "In Our Mind" on Thursday, March 7 at 7pm in the Black Box Theatre. The theme of the show is mental health awareness and proceeds will benefit YouthEra, a national mental health and teen suicide prevention organization. Please consider joining us for an evening of inspiration and support our students and their important cause.

Congratulations
to the cast and crew of

Annie

another great CHHS Fine Arts production

