

Marblehead's Impressive Theater Legacy

- Cassidy Alla

Marblehead High School has a bit of a reputation. They are known in the high school theatre world as a force to be reckoned with. Every year, MHS musicals earn rave reviews for their talented students and professional-level showmanship. This year, the Marblehead High School drama department takes on Loesser's "Guys & Dolls," a battle-of-the-sexes musical comedy set in 1950s New York City. The play centers around two couples, played by a pair Marblehead seniors, Elizabeth Jancsy and Alec Glass, and a pair of juniors, Annie Krivit and Jacob Sundlie, and their respective trips to the altar. Seniors Olivia Foley and LJ Littler also have colorful supporting roles; everyone in the cast creates an exciting and interesting performance with their enthusiasm and creativity on stage. While sitting in on a rehearsal, I could see the performers were full of laughs as they worked on a scene, trying out new blocking, and perfecting their old-time-Manhattan accents (Note: watch out for Drew Welch's hilarious accent in his role of "Benny."). The cast was having a great time and also letting their creativity flow, which was reflected as the scene came together.

The lively atmosphere is in large part due to director Fran Betlyon, who earns rave reviews from her cast. "She makes it okay for the kids to have fun," says junior Maisie Miller, "Every rehearsal is really exciting." Betlyon has kind words to say about the students she is directing, too, saying, "The level of talent at Marblehead is already so high, it makes it exciting to work with such talented kids... They are always having fun and ready to rehearse." Junior Sarah Sontz is just excited to be part of the action: "I've always been part of stage crew," she explains, "But now I'm on stage and part of the action! And it is really cool to see the whole play come together."

The group is well into rehearsals, with opening night looming just over three weeks away. But there are no signs of pre-show jitters at this rehearsal. The cast is having fun and getting ready to show off a high quality production which they have put their blood, sweat, and tears into. The Marblehead High School Drama department is renowned because they allow their students to have fun and be creative, turning into a performance students are proud of and excited for. "Guys & Dolls" is sure to be an amazing show you won't want to miss. Then again, from MHS Drama, that is no surprise.