

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

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Marblehead's Impressive Theater Legacy

Cassidy Alla

Junior, Student Affairs

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.

A Real Hometown Treat

Riley Sugarman

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With all the online movie stores and "DVD Boxes" that have taken over, how could a tiny movie store survive for twenty years? There are so many amazing reasons why Chet's Video and Candy Shoppe recently celebrated the big 2-0. First off, we have the best popcorn in the entire universe (and if you're wondering why I say "we," I happen to spend my Saturday nights behind the famous counter). This popcorn consists of kernels, coconut-vegetable oil, salt, and the cliché ingredient: love. Even before acquiring my job, I would stop by just for the popcorn and leave with five boxes. Learning how to make this popcorn was like learning the Krabby Patty formula; I was officially welcomed into the Chet's family. By the way, I have no clue how I stumbled upon this job. Literally every kid in town has applied for a job at 1 Essex St. at some point, and all I did was ask. A month or so later, Melissa (Chet's daughter) called me up asking me to fill in, and the rest is history. If you need another incentive to drop the competition, Chet's customer service is stellar. My fellow employees and I get paid to watch movies, make popcorn, and chat with townies. Who wouldn't want a job like that? The Chet's staff is so happy all the time because we love our jobs. That feeling when your recommendation proves successful is extremely gratifying. People often say, "But what about DVD vending machines? It's

only a buck!" Personally, I have never ventured into the dark corner of Stop & Shop, the home of a DVD Box, but I'm pretty sure it isn't nearly as inviting as the homey smell of Chet's. The witty humor of Chet Strout is irreplaceable. Chet transfers VCR tapes into DVDs, provides outstanding recommendations, and has a relationship with everyone who walks through the front door. He puts up with the infinite amount of children on half days, politely deals with irate customers, and is always up for a good laugh. A huge reason why Chet's is still strong is because of the very man himself.

Lately, so many people have told me that Chet's won't hang on much longer because Netflix is taking over. They question why people would drive those two miles out of their way when they can get it right on their computer. Unless there's a snowstorm and you absolutely have to watch that last episode of Lost, there is no reason why you can't get up and drive those five minutes. Believe me, the struggle is not real. Why do you think Chet's is the ONLY video store around? Because we have so many loyal customers who will happily go the extra mile out of their way to stop in and grab a flick! Still not sold? Does your online company provide FREE popcorn with every rental? I think not. Can you purchase a bag of M&Ms to enjoy with your flick online? I don't think so. Are you greeted with the smell of freshly popped popcorn and sense of home whenever you walk up to a DVD Box? Nope! Chet's Video and Candy Shoppe is one of the last remaining video stores within

driving distance for a reason: there is no place like Chet's because Chet's is home.

Q&A with Chet and Carrie Strout:
Why a video store?

Carrie: Chet, my boyfriend at the time, had a passion for movies, so we decided to go for it.

Chet: It was something I had really wanted to do, and at the time I was working at a video store and as a bartender. I liked the way I could interact with the customers and relate with them.

Carrie: It was the perfect thing for his skill set, and he was game for it.

Did you always know this was something you wanted to do?

Chet: I don't think I always knew I was going to do it; I thought at one point I would be running my own bar or restaurant.

Favorite movie(s)?

Chet: Chinatown (thriller), Edward Scissorhands (drama), Young Frankenstein (comedy), Saving Private Ryan (war), and To Kill a Mockingbird (classics).

Carrie: Rear Window (Hitchcock), and any great mystery.

What is your favorite part of owning a video store?

Chet: My interaction with the customers.

Carrie: My favorite part is having made an impact in Marblehead, because it's more than just a store, it's the center of town. People love coming here; it's just a little old-fashioned store and you don't really get the feel of it anywhere else.

Epic Poem Part 2

Alex Kerai and Liam Reilly

Webmaster and Entertainment Editor, Juniors

The pitter-pattering of coconuts
Quieted as the steed was reigned,
All of the town's subjects came out
To see what had been brought in disdain.
They were surprised, however
When the sorcerer proclaimed:
"This man is no foe;
He deserves none of our shame.
Instead let us escort him
To our great King and Queen."
The townspeople obliged and took the knight
For none knew what the sorcerer had seen.
Sir Thom was brought to the inn for the night
And the keeper was kind,
She gave him food and a quill,
But paid him no mind.
He began drafting letters to persons

unknown,
Asking for money, food, and words to join his own.
He needed to beat the Tyrant –
The bearded Connor Ryan –
For Contours would never take over,
Not even if Sir Thom lay dying.
Sir Higgins woke up the next day,
Refreshed and renewed,
He thanked the innkeeper Meredith
Paying her her dues.
He walked to the lighthouse castle,
Set in the middle of town,
And hoped to appeal to the King and Queen,
Gaining any support that could be found.
As he walked he met the confidants –
Who had the ear of the Queen.
He asked them to grant him an audience
For they did not know what he had seen.
Once the three agreed on a time,
Ms. Shanna and Ms. Caroline
Ran back to their Mistress
And he followed their line.
The Knight arrived at the castle
And greeted the gatekeeper again.
She led him to the main hall
Where he had to wait for an hour – may-

be ten.
The sorcerer came in with a new discovery
("I can see everything!" he said)
While the Bard came in to tell a story,
Of a knight who was misled.
At last he was granted an audience,
And Sir Thomas entered the court.
He was greeted by a Court Jester,
Who was unlike any other sort.
As the Jester led him through the court
Sir Thom barely caught a glimpse
He believed it was the red hair
Of the royal Queen and King.
He finally arrived, and approached the throne
Of King Dan and Queen Grace
And as he stood before them in his cardigan,
He prepared to make his case.

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