

***Thoroughly Modern Millie* – an MHS Production**

By Olivia Gould, Guest Writer

“I’m changing and how!”

This 1920’s jargon may sound strange, but it is all part of the good clean fun that is the newest musical Marblehead High School has decided to tackle: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*! Set in 1922, a time of underground speakeasies and women calling themselves “moderns”, the show tells the classic story of a young woman from Kansas who travels to New York City to make a life for herself. Millie Dillmount has a plan: to find a career and then marry her boss—love has nothing to do with it! However, a naïve young woman, a famous singer, a carefree man, and a white slavery ring turn Millie’s plan upside-down!

In performing *Millie*, MHS is branching out and doing a show that is completely different from its most recent one. This stereotypical musical, with its puns, tap-dancing and random bursts of song, is a far cry from last year’s bohemian rock opera RENT. However, it has been inspiring for the cast to expand their horizons and try out a musical that is somewhat more traditional. This kind of show uses different staging and involves different abilities from the actors than does RENT. It also requires much more dancing and unified movement from the cast as a whole. Learning to tap-dance has been a new experience for many, but it has been a lot of fun!

So why should you go see *Thoroughly Modern Millie*? “We went to your football games...” one cast member offers. Another, James Zissulis, replies, “Because I play a woman!” In a more serious light, the cast has researched the time period in which the show is set, specifically the idea of the “modern” woman and the Prohibition Act. As Jacob Sundlie says, “In society today [similar to the 1920’s] many are protesting and calling for change... it’s something we can relate to.” This is a fun, upbeat musical that is sure to entertain even the harshest critics. “So beat the drums, ‘cuz here comes *Thoroughly Modern Millie* now!”