

# Headlight



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

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

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## Remembering Sid Caesar

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News Coordinator, Freshman

On February 12 of this year, entertainer Sid Caesar died at the age of ninety-one. Much of his television work was destroyed long before his death, and he was most active during the 1950s, so many younger people live in complete ignorance of who Sid Caesar was, and why he was, and remains today, such an influential figure in television.

Sid Caesar was a comedian, a man with a broader talent range than most performers do now. A gifted saxophonist, sketch comedian, and mimicry artist, Caesar had a live TV variety show in the 1950s called Your Show of Shows. It was an era when not everyone had access to television, so the sketches were written with a sophisticated, educated audience in mind. There were parodies of foreign films, with the dialogue in Caesar's famous "double-talk," which consists of imitations of other languages. He and fellow Your Show of Shows stars Carl Reiner, Imogene Coca, and Howard Morris spoke in a combination of gibberish,

real words from other languages, and English, for an impressive and hilarious effect.

The sketches on Your Show of Shows were innovative, clean, varied, and (most importantly) funny: an entirely pantomimed argument taking place between a husband and wife to the music of Beethoven's Fifth, a parody of From Here to Eternity entitled From Here to Obscurity, a double-talk parody of the Italian film La Bicicletta. Watch any sketch from Your Show of Shows or Caesar's Hour, Caesar's sketch show after Your Shows of Shows ended, and the parallels can be seen between Caesar's work and later sketch/variety shows, such as Saturday Night Live. SNL is significantly raunchier than Your Show of Shows, but I would say that Your Show of Shows is funnier, primarily because of the talent of the cast, Caesar's brilliance, and the phenomenal writing of the show.

Caesar's Your Show of Shows and Caesar's Hour were also legendary in the comedians and writers they produced. The Your Show of Shows staff was home to, among others, Mel Brooks, a writer, actor, and director for movies such as Blazing Saddles, High Anxiety, Young Frankenstein, and Spaceballs, as well as the

TV show Get Smart, which inspired the 2008 movie, Neil Simon, author of the play Laughter on the 23rd Floor, written about his time spent on Your Show of Shows, as well as dozens of other stage and screen plays, and Carl Reiner, a cast member of Your Show of Shows, who created The Dick Van Dyke Show and appears periodically in Two and a Half Men. Additionally, Reiner and Mel Brooks created the mock interview series The 2000 Year Old Man, which you should definitely look up on YouTube, even if it has nothing to do with Sid Caesar. Larry Gelbart, who went on to create M\*A\*S\*H, wrote for Caesar's Hour. Woody Allen also wrote for Caesar, and his credentials need no explanation at all.

I'll close my article with two quotes from Sid Caesar himself: "In between goals is a thing called life, that has to be lived and enjoyed," and "The guy who invented the first wheel was an idiot. The guy who invented the other three, he was a genius."

## Spring Fever

Linda Fitzpatrick  
Reporter-in-the-Field,  
Freshman

The spring time frenzy is finally settling in as the days become longer and the temperature rises. Spring is a time of cleaning and reorganizing our lives, and, some would argue, most importantly a time of warmth. With April break just around the corner, it can be hard to focus on the present tasks at hand, like completing homework or just making it through a day of school. Our minds are narrowed into a week in the sun, whether it be here in our quaint town of Marblehead, or on a trip elsewhere, relaxed, without the wickedly cold days winter has provided us with this year. This trance can distract us all from our daily lives. We need to remind ourselves that time is an illusion we create.

We could spend these next few weeks in a depressed, eager attitude, or we could tell ourselves that we are one day closer to vacation, making the wait bearable. Time works

the way you want it to. It's an obstacle of life that can cause distress or happiness. If you choose to endlessly count the days until your week off, or until the weather is finally worth going outside for, you will end up finding yourself stuck in a rut, for that count will feel forever continuous. Instead of being swallowed up in time, control it yourself. Be grateful for each new day and the adventures it will provide.

The clocks won't speed up or slow down, but you can choose what you would like time to feel like. It is all up to you in how you choose to envision the world. Your frame of mind will determine which way time will go by. For the clocks to spin faster, stay focused on each passing day, and before you know it, it will be spring break. The warmth will continue to rise, and the sun will stay shining in the sky longer. Your positive attitude will move along the winter shivers and supply summery breezes in no time if you focus on the present rather than wishing it away.

## Why Did Marat Cross the Road? To Get to the Other Side

Alex Kerai  
Webmaster, Junior

Theater is different from nearly every other art form: It is performed and then it is gone forever. Audiences will never see the same performance twice; that is impossible. If a performance is recorded it becomes film, and if a photograph is taken of it then it becomes a photograph and not theater. After rehearsing for three months, the cast and crew of Marat/Sade performed the show for two judges at the state-wide Drama Festival. Each year, the Massachusetts Education Theater Guild (METG) hosts a one-act play festival. To start, around 115 high schools across the state compete at 14 different host sites in a preliminary round with the hope of moving on to the semi-final round and from there, the final round in Boston.

This year, for the second year in a row, Marblehead was one of the host sites for the preliminary round at the Nelson Aldrich Performing Arts Center (PAC). This involved a lot of extra hours and planning for the Festival Staff, which included Emily Kauffman, Baie Rogers, Elizabeth Payne and me. The festival staff assisted the seven other schools who were going to perform at Drama Fest with their tech hour. During that hour, stage managers from the visiting schools would mark the stage, actors worked on projection and the tech crew worked on sound and lighting design. After months of preparation, the day of preliminaries came and everything went very smoothly. I was able to watch every show and

was quite impressed with each school. They all put a considerable amount of time and effort into their productions and it showed. To be able to spend a day watching eight 40-minute plays performed by high schoolers is amazing. The talent and love for theater was apparent and is one of the many things that I love about Drama Fest.

Marblehead tackled Peter Weiss's complex The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade (more commonly known as Marat/Sade), a show within a show, for this year's Drama Fest. Marat/Sade is set in the historical insane asylum of Charenton where the real Marquis de Sade was incarcerated for the last years of his life and where he staged plays with his fellow inmates as actors. Weiss's play is, for the most part, historically accurate, and thus an immense challenge for high school actors to perform. Not only are they playing historical or insane figures, tackling tough and disturbing subject matter, but some of them also have to speak in verse! These challenges are hard enough for a professional ensemble, and for high schoolers they would be nearly impossible – but under the masterful and brilliant direction of renowned director Henry Dembowski, everyone rose to the challenge. Senior Alec Glass said, "It was a very rewarding experience to work with Henry because he had such a clear vision of what he wanted out of us and yet his vision was also very adaptable to what we brought to the table." The cast included Andrew Dalton (Marquis de Sade), Tyler

McDonough (Jean-Paul Marat), Olivia Gentes (Charlotte Corday), Fox Prouty (the Herald), Jacob Sundlie (Coulmier), Rachel Larson (Simone Evrard), Henry Power (Duperret), Julia Taliesin (Mad Animal), Jack Krivit (Jacques Roux), and LJ Littler, Annie Krivit, Liv Foley and Alec Glass as the Four Singers (Curcurucu, Rossignol, Polpoch and Kokol respectively), with a large ensemble of students portraying inmates and nurses. The music was composed and performed by Paul Wilkens. Ms. Mary Franklin did costumes and also assisted Mr. Dembowski in directing. The show was technically directed by Mr. Greg Dana with his crew of students which included stage managers Elizabeth Payne and Emily Kauffman and myself, the lighting designer, along with a small stage crew. Senior Stage Manager Elizabeth Payne commended all, "The cast was amazingly talented and the crew was fantastic as always."

Marblehead advanced from the preliminary round onto semi-finals which were held two weeks later at Weston High School. MHS had two weeks to prepare for the semi-final round and adapt Marat/Sade to fit Weston's stage. Marblehead was the first school to perform at Weston during semi-finals and after performing we watched every show. It was a fun, competitive day of theater and an experience that we were disappointed to see end so abruptly. Marblehead did not move on from semi-finals. Although the judges liked the "disturbing and vividly designed world" and complimented the cast on their "strong commitment to their physical and vocal work," they did not

choose Marat/Sade as one of the productions to move on to finals.

However, Marblehead did not go home empty handed either. Over the course of two rounds of Drama Fest, Marat/Sade won seven all-star acting and technical achievement awards. Tyler McDonough (two-time winner) won for his portrayal of Jean-Paul Marat, Andrew Dalton for his interpretation of the Marquis de Sade, Olivia Gentes for her role as Charlotte Corday, Fox Prouty for his performance as the Herald, Kyra Jones and Rachel Larson for their design of the set, Elizabeth Payne and Emily Kauffman for stage managing, and Alex Kerai for lighting design. The judges complimented everyone in the production saying how "at any point, a snapshot of the stage could be taken and the picture would be beautiful." Tech director Greg Dana I think put it best when he said: "Though we did not move on to the state finals this year, we gained at least two important things. The cast was one of the most talented and cohesive groups we have had in years-- this can only help our future productions. Second, we started the show with a small, yet skilled crew that has now doubled in size and enthusiasm. It looks like good times ahead."

## College Time

Meredith Piela  
News Coordinator  
Junior

Recently it hit me that now is the time when adults will ask if I have been looking at colleges. I never had to think about that until recently, with almost three quarters of my junior year completed. I have already considered what I want to study, journalism and communications, but I have not quite figured out where I want to go to school.

A few years ago, when my sister was looking at schools, I would go along, too. I couldn't wait until the day I got to go on my own college visits! I remember going on a tour of Emory University in Georgia, during a family vacation when my sister was a junior, and admiring the gorgeous campus. There was also the tour of The University of Edinburgh, where she now attends, on a family trip to Scotland. I remember seeing the campus and noticing how much it reminded

me of Hogwarts. After a few years of waiting, it is finally my turn to look at schools, and I am ready.

Over February break, I took my first college tour of Fairfield University in Connecticut. When we arrived at the campus, even though there were mountains of snow, I thought it was beautiful. While on the tour, I could easily picture myself there, studying in the gigantic and stunning library and hanging out in the dorms and the quad. I could also picture myself writing for the school newspaper, "The Mirror," and taking part in the service programs that this Jesuit university has to offer. I was so happy to look at a school that is not only the perfect size for me, but also one that I can picture myself attending. Now, as I start to look at other schools, such as ones in New York, I know what I like and what I am looking for, which will make the college search process eas

## Marblehead Dollars For Scholars Application Deadline is April 1st

Log onto [www.marblehead.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.marblehead.dollarsforscholars.org)

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