

The Patriot

Special Issue

January 21, 2005

Senior Directed Cabaret takes center stage

Jamie Valentine '05

The Senior Directed Cabaret is a tradition begun ten years ago with the class of 1996. It was started as a fundraiser for Project Graduation, which was also founded that same year.

In the past decade, this show has earned a reputation as an off-the-wall funny and very relatable production.

In '96, then-seniors Beth Wodnick and Brian Nocella were the first directors. Since then, two seniors who are dedicated to theater at Township have been chosen by the previous year's cast and crew as co-directors every year.

It is an honor to be chosen to

direct, and this year's directors are Meghan Mucciarelli and Mike DiMatessa.

When she found out, Mucciarelli said, "I jumped up and down and screamed like a little girl, honestly."

DiMatessa said, "I've wanted to do this since freshman year. I want to be a director, so this is a great chance to get some experience. And I was excited to work with Meghan."

Directing a show like this one is no easy task. The Senior Directed Cabaret is made up of several skits, all selected, cast, and directed by Mucciarelli and DiMatessa. Over the summer, they read through dozens of plays and episodes of TV shows to decide which ones would work best.

The chosen skits range from serious to romantic to funny. According to Mucciarelli, the funniest is "Just Be Frank".

"We fell in love with it," she says.

Another of her favorite skits is "Scuba Lessons" which she describes as being a romantic comedy.

Choosing the skits themselves was a lot of work, but according to



Jamie Valentine / The Patriot

Directors Mike DiMatessa (left) and Meghan Mucciarelli (center) work on a scene with actor, Carl Jewell '07.

the directors, the hardest part was casting.

"Seventy people auditioned, which was a huge jump from last year," DiMatessa said. "So many good people wound up not getting cast just because there weren't enough parts."

The chosen cast, however, is great to work with.

"Everyone treats it like a director/actor relationship. They don't let the fact that we're kids

affect it," said DiMatessa.

SDC is a different sort of show than a usual musical or play. According to DiMatessa, "This isn't just one show, that if you can't relate to it, you're out. It's all kinds of genres. There's something for everyone."

Senior Directed runs on January 20 and 21 at 7:30 in the 11/12 Auditorium.

All proceeds benefit Project Graduation.



Jamie Valentine / The Patriot

Actors rehearse a scene from "Seinfeld".

Interact aids tsunami victims

Helping Hands project raises funds to assist disaster recovery

Scott Grandrino '05

The devastating tsunami that struck southern Asia has destroyed almost everything in its path and left thousands homeless. Many groups around the world are helping in some way with relief effort. Our school's Interact club is one of these groups.

During an Interact club meeting,

Tori Gilbert '07 asked Interact club advisor Ms. Tracy Naval what they could do to help the Tsunami victims.

"She saw the destruction and wanted to do something," said Naval of Gilbert's interest.

Gilbert wasn't the only one who wanted to help with relief efforts.

Ms. Harner, a faculty member at our school, had a former roommate who was from Sri Lanka, one of the small towns in southern Asia that was badly hit. Harner's roommate's family still lives in Sri Lanka.

Harner, just like Gilbert, went to Naval to ask for help. The Interact club then decided to start a fundraiser to gain money for the victims in need.

Interact members are

selling hands for a dollar. The hands represent helping hands.

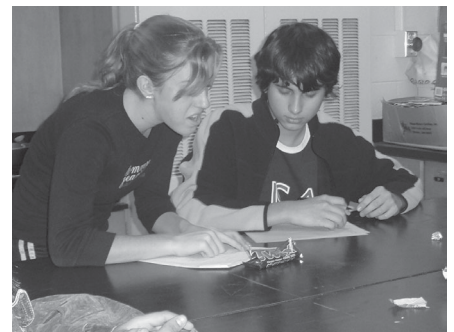
"It's a way to represent our efforts," said Naval.

The club hopes to make \$1,200. With the money, they will purchase a tractor trailer container. The container will hold materials like clothes, food and blankets, and any extra money the club makes will go to buying whatever is needed to help. The goods will be shipped to Sri Lanka.

For Interact to achieve their goal of \$1,200, they will need the generous help of the students.

"It depends on how generous the students are," said Naval, speaking about her hopes for the fundraiser.

Naval expects the club to "reach their



Amanda Matticks '07 and Raul Fajardo '07 work to help the cause.

goal and exceed it." Right now their expectation is ahead of pace and it looks like they will make more than their goal.

You can purchase a hand from an Interact club member in your lunch period or K-105 after school.



photos Joe Comerford '05/ The Patriot

Students lend a helping hand after school.

Can the Eagles Migrate to Jacksonville?

Yes, the Birds will be flying South this winter

Scott Grandrino '05

This year is the year. I'm tired of always using the excuse "well, there's always next year." The excuse won't be used this year. The Eagles are going to the Super Bowl.

As everyone knows and constantly keeps saying, the NFC is very weak this year. And this is very true. The NFC consists of the Eagles and... all the other teams. There is no one that posts a threat to Philadelphia.

Even though the Atlanta Falcons finished 11-5 in second place, they're a doubtful threat. Plus Atlanta has to come here to play, in cold weather, outside the dome. And if Michael Vick tries to run, Brian Dawkins will be sure to remind him what happened last time Atlanta came to town.

This year's team is the best it's been in a very, very long time. They are much better than the Eagles of the past three years.

First off, the defense is better and more solid against both the run and pass.

Bringing in Jevon Kearse, and bringing back Jeremiah Trotter and Hugh Douglass, improved the Eagles run defense.

Also the pass defense stepped up with first time starters, Pro-Bowler, Lito Sheppard and Sheldon Brown.

Michael Lewis has played this whole year long as one of the best strong safety in the league. When you add veteran free safety Brian Dawkins to the mix, you have arguable the best secondary in the NFL. (And here's a fun little fact. Dawkins, Lewis, and Sheppard all made the Pro-Bowl and are all starters.)

Second, even without T.O. the Birds' offense is still deadly. The Eagles have weapons that will step up and make big plays.

Todd Pinkston, Greg Lewis, L.J. Smith, Freddie Mitchell, and Chad Lewis will all be just a few players that know their roles on the team and know when to step up.

This year we have something on offense that we didn't have last year. Brian Westbrook.

Westbrook's play has contributed to the Eagles winning season. He and McNabb are the birds' two biggest weapons and they sure will do some damage against opponents this postseason.

And finally, the Eagles have a lot riding on them. They're tired of hearing from the media about losing the past three straight NFC championship games, and they're also tired of critics saying that they are going to be the biggest disappointment because of the loss of T.O.

In the beginning of the season everyone picked them to represent the NFC in the super bowl. And even now, without T.O., I'm still sticking with this team, no matter what anyone says.

This is their year.
Go get 'em birds!

No, this year will be the same as the others

Tom Reed '05

It is playoff time and football fans in the Philadelphia area have a great deal of confidence in their 13-3 Eagles. Fans

are confident that after years of frustration they will finally be going all the way this year.

I agree that the Eagles are a very solid team, but despite their good record, I doubt the Eagles will find much more success this year than they have in the last few. It's true that the Eagles have only lost 3 times this season, but they were 3 very ugly losses, including a 27-3 loss to the AFC leading Pittsburgh Steelers, which in my opinion, is a glimpse of what the playoffs will hold for the Eagles.

Basically I think that a team worthy of the Super Bowl should be more consistent

then the Eagles have proven to be. They Eagles have had a handful of losses or close games against teams they should have annihilated, like the Redskins(6-10) and Browns(4-12). The Eagles simply did not show up to play in these games.

Some teams have tough schedules and are better than their records would indicate, however I think the opposite is true for the Eagles. A lot of their games have been against teams in their division, none of which finished with more than 6 wins. Aside from Green Bay, the Eagles don't have many convincing wins against teams with good records.

Also, despite only allowing 260 points this year, the Eagles have a few problems on defense this year. For example their run defense did horrible against the Steelers. The Steelers running game destroyed the Eagles in 4 embarrassing quarters of football. I predict that the Eagles will lose in the Conference Finals. They will lose just like they have the past few years, in the same disappointing fashion

To be honest, I thought the Eagles were going all the way in the beginning of the season, but they've given me doubt (like they do every year) towards the end. They've lost the past 2 games, and lost their star wide receiver, Terrell Owens, which is obviously not best the way to end the regular season. There aren't many teams with more talent than the Eagles, but there are a lot of teams that want it more than they do.

Are the Eagles a good team with a solid record? Yes.
Are they good enough to win the super bowl?

I doubt it.

