

— THE — DELTRAN SUN

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FREE

Students prepare for spring musical

BY ZANE CLARK
The Sun

It's been a winter of snowstorms, but the sun'll come out to many on Feb. 21 when the Delran High School Thespian Society debuts its spring musical "Annie."

The students have been hard at work preparing, and co-director and choreographer Mary Jo Hutchinson said their work is definitely going to pay off.

"It's going to be a fantastic show," Hutchinson said. "Our goal is to pick a show that is good for our program and showcases the kids we have."

Perhaps no student will be showcased more than sophomore Lyndsey Guarino, who will be playing the lead role of Little Orphan Annie. "Annie" was the first musical Guarino ever saw, and since then her dream has been to play the role of Annie on stage. She even routinely uses the song "Tomorrow" to audition for community theater projects.

"I love the music," Guarino said. "I love Annie's character. I think she's so funny and outgoing."

Guarino said she loves the show as a whole because it has something for everybody.

"It's a very enjoyable and family friendly show," Guarino said. "There's so many different characters, and it's very entertaining and funny. There are a lot of



Little Orphan Annie, played by sophomore Lyndsey Guarino, is comforted by Daddy Warbucks, played by junior Ryan Bogie, after learning their quest to find Annie's birth parents has been unsuccessful. The Delran High school Thespian Society has been hard at work practicing for its spring musical 'Annie,' which opens on Feb. 21.

dances and fast-moving scenes."

Guarino is so dedicated to "Annie" she even plans to have her hair cut and dyed to match the orphan's iconic red curls.

"First of all thank you to my parents for being OK with it,"

Guarino said. "I'm actually pretty excited to do it and see what my hair looks like. I've never done anything like this with my hair."

Hutchinson said energy and dedication are just part of Guarino.

"She's definitely living her dream," Hutchinson said. "The enthusiasm she brings to every performance is palpable."

The show is also unique as it will also mark the final production for many longtime thespian

IF YOU GO

What: "Annie" - The Delran High School Thespian Society spring musical

Where: Morris R. Burton Performing Arts Center at Delran High School

When: Feb 21, 22, 28 and March 1 at 8 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 2 at 2 p.m.

Cost: \$10 - All Seats Reserved. \$8 for senior citizens and children under 10

How: Purchase tickets in person - The box office will open one hour before each performance

society members, who as seniors will soon graduate and leave the theater at Delran to a new generation.

Haley Melvin, a senior, has been performing in shows for much of her life, including her entire high school career. Now with the part of Lily St. Regis as her final role at Delran, Melvin said she couldn't help but get somewhat emotional.

"I grew up on the stage," Melvin said. "I've been on it since I was 10. To think that my last show here is right around the corner, it brings a tear to my eye. But if you haven't seen a DHS show yet, this is the one to start with."

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'Annie' running through February

'ANNIE'

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Senior Devin Kollmar will be playing the part of Rooster in what is his 13th show. He said the whole experience of preparing for his last show at Delran has been bittersweet.

"It's not going to be my last show ever, because I plan on doing community theater through college," Kollmar said. "But realizing I'm stepping on this exact stage probably for the last time is kind of sad to think about because I've been on this stage since sixth grade."

Also soon to graduate are several seniors who have been leading the all too often unsung heroes of theater, the crew.

Tyler Burrell, stage manager, and Jared Hamlin and Kevin Weir, student technical directors, are described by Hutchinson as

being instrumental in everything from building sets, to 30-second set changes, to lights to sound design to anything else that needs done.

Hamlin said handling all the different responsibilities is just part of the job.

"We're not really assigned one specific thing," Hamlin said. "We just make sure everything works together."

Weir agreed.

"You have to make sure everything is smooth," Weir said. "You have to make sure everything is smooth like six or seven times."

However, Burrell said he wouldn't spend so many hours after school doing it if he didn't enjoy it, and he plans to pursue a degree in technical theater.

"It's just interesting," Burrell said. "I want to do something I like for the rest of my life. Not just a job, something I can enjoy."

Hutchinson also credits her fellow advisors Cara Davis, co-director,

Mike Smith, technical director, Suzanne Kerr, vocal director, and Tom Rafter, orchestra director, for all the equally hard work they've done and for their dedication to the students.

"I know I speak for all of the other directors that we feel really lucky to have the chance to work with these kids and to teach them about something we personally are so passionate about," Hutchinson said.

"It's truly a great opportunity and a gift we get to share with our students."

Performances of "Annie" will run on Feb. 21, 22, 28 and March 1 at 8 p.m., and on Feb. 23 and March 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and \$8 for senior citizens and children under 10.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office an hour before each performance, or online at www.showtix4u.com or by following a link on delranschools.org.

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