

Noise . . . from the cheap seats

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD-CARLISLE PATRONS OF PERFORMING STUDENTS
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From: the Prez • *Evita* Forever – A Memory to Last

by Annalee Mulhall, '07

Sunday, March 11, the final bows were taken, the curtain closed and everyone got to work. *Evita* was over. The audience streamed out the aisles and backstage a team of students and parent volunteers stepped into high gear. Some members of the class of '07 took a brief moment to mark the end of their career on the stage at CCHS, and then costumes were exchanged for jeans and they reported to the stage to start taking down the set.

The set of *Evita* was a sight to behold. Designed and built by our own student stage crew and various volunteers under the direction of stage manager Eric Johnson, it drew a gasp from the audience when the curtains opened. The perfect showcase for the amazing student talent assembled on that stage. A crowd gathered around Eric Johnson '08 as

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Eva Peron's final request before she died was that she be remembered. After CC's latest triumph – the production of the musical *Evita* – the real Eva Peron can rest assured that she will never be forgotten at CCHS. With more than 100 people involved and a script entirely sung, the show set new limits for the CC stage.

Playing a role like Eva Peron was different from any other role I've had to play. Eva was no fictional character cleverly crafted by some playwright. She was a real human being with many different layers. In order to properly convey her I had to do a lot of research, and I felt it was important to her memory that every side of her be portrayed. In writing the musical Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber didn't emphasize the part of her that was a loving wife, or the part that was a helpless victim of cancer, but focused on her selfish ambition. Instead, I wanted to show how human she was. Eva created *Evita Forever* *continued on page 3*

Evita Reflection – The Beginning

by Celeste Hall, '10

When the curtain descends upon the stage as another production closes, I take some time to reflect upon my experience working with the cast, creative team, orchestra, and crew and to think about what the previous weeks or months have meant to me. By the time the opening night of *Evita* came around, I had already begun to reflect on the show. The friends I made and the achievements that were reached touched me, and once again reminded me of what an indescribable experience the past couple months had been. From the welcoming waves I received in the hallway from fellow actors to the warm, inviting personalities I grew to know, I had many good memories. All of the upperclassmen involved in the production were incredibly kind. Every one of them supported me and acknowledged me for the effort I put forth. I am sure that the other underclassmen in the show felt the same way. They made me feel like there could never be a more memorable cast than the one I just worked with.

Evita is an opera, with music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber. About 99% of the story of Eva Perón is expressed through music. The first time I listened to a recording of the show, I wondered how a group of high school students could learn all the music in such a short period. With the help of our directors, our ensemble was soon very dedicated and interested in getting to know the opera better. This opera offers different genres of music and provides the audience with an interesting mix of songs. When we finally learned everything and began to block the numbers, excitement filled the air. February vacation rehearsals were well underway and the 8 hour rehearsals were entertaining and successful. February vacation was my favorite part of the entire two months of preparation. Being with my friends and doing what I love while being under the fine direction of George Kendall and Al Dentino was truly a blessing. The

Evita Reflection *continued on page 3*

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Reminder to All Adult Volunteers

Massachusetts law requires that all schools conduct a criminal background check on volunteers (and employees) at least every three years during each person's term of service. Therefore, all our loyal CCPOPS volunteers must complete a "Criminal Offender Record Information" (CORI) form at the CCHS main office, if they do not already have one on file. Please see Louisa Coleman between 8 am and 4 pm and don't forget to bring your drivers license or passport which she will need to see before your form can be submitted.

CCPOPS volunteers are not legally allowed to work as volunteers at CCHS until the CORI check is completed. All information contained in the form is held in complete confidence.

Please come to the
LAST
CCPOPS meeting of the year
on
May 3, 2007 at
7pm – Little Theater

From the Prez

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he raised hammer to the rose colored stucco, the first step in the demolition. After the initial impact things moved quickly. Music blared, students formed teams to carry discarded wood, stage lights were taken down and carefully placed in their storage bins.

In A-7, dresses, shoes, clothing racks, sashes, sewing machines were all being sorted, claimed, and exclaimed over. Clothing being worn an hour before was now a reminder of a funny story, and then put in a pile to be cleaned.

The hallway became a freeway of instruments being shuttled between the auditorium and the band room. Chairs and stands were held aloft to allow the passage of everything from the harp to kettle drum.

As the set strike went on, boxes of pizza arrived and things were definitely slowing down. A DVD of the performance started playing in A-5. Assembled students, some still wearing stage make up and shaking off saw dust, stared at the screen amazed. A student with mouth full of pizza and eyes on the screen asked, "Who's trying out for *Twelfth Night*?"

There is no way to adequately thank all of the volunteers who helped make this production such a success. From try-outs to the set strike and beyond: student volunteers, parents of students involved in the production, parents of students not involved with the play, parents of alums, faculty members, Concord merchants. The list goes on and on.

Thank you once again to all who lent a hand. Now, who wants to work on *Twelfth Night*?

Please look to the calendar either in this edition of the *Noise* or on ccpops.org home page for the Upcoming Performance list of events. Encourage your friends and neighbors to take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy the wonderful talents of the young people at CCHS.

See you at the show!



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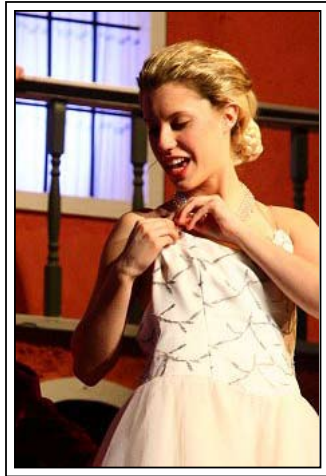


EVITA Redux

Now that it has been almost two months since *Evita* closed, the experience still remains active in the memories of those of us fortunate enough to have been involved with the show. It is truly rare for such an artistic endeavor to create the type of energy and almost “consciousness” as *Evita* did. When I say “consciousness”, I mean affecting many of us so deeply and on multiple levels of emotion. Thanks again for all who helped with the huge task of putting this major production on the stage – the students of CCHS are greatly appreciative!

George Kendall

CCHS Theatre and Drama teacher



Annalee Mulhall '07 as Eva Perone.



Celeste Hall '10 as Perone's Girlfriend.

Photos by Molly Nix '07
taken at the *Evita* Open Dress Rehearsal.

Evita Forever – A Memory to Last

ated “Evita City” where she housed, clothed, and fed the poor people of Argentina. She had been born an illegitimate child into the lower class and had a deep understanding of their hardships. Her drive to be champion of the poor was just as human as her hatred of the aristocracy or her blind ambition.

Evita was only the latest of many shows performed on the CC stage over the years. When I think of how many shows there have been in that space, I feel honored to have now become a part of its history. Standing on that bare stage and looking out at the empty house is exhilarating. There is a vibrant energy from all the previous productions that emanates from the walls and the floor. When it came time to tear down the set for strike there was a heightened emotional state among all of us. To take something down that is so beautiful and holds such wonderful memories is a hard task for any cast or crew member; but it is the reality of theater, and it teaches people the impermanence of the performing arts.

Over the course of my last four productions at CCHS, I've learned not to get attached to any one costume or character and to constantly look forward to whatever is next. I've never been one to cry on closing night or during set strike because I've learned to enjoy experiences in the moment, but for some reason this production was the hardest for me to say goodbye to. Perhaps it is the realization that my days of standing on that empty stage where everything began for me have come to an end. For those of us graduating, saying goodbye to the CC stage will be a new reality to adjust to. Personally that dusty, leaky auditorium where some of my fondest memories have been created will be my favorite place to visit when I come home.

Thanks for the memories.

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Evita Reflection – The Memories Begin

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orchestra was so talented and a joy to work with, while the set and the technology used was extremely impressive for a high school production. Throughout the entire experience, CCPOPS and parents of the cast, crew, and orchestra generously donated their time to help make the rehearsal process the best possible. Throughout February vacation, the food and snacks were well-organized (not to mention rewarding!) for everyone, and I thank the parents who contributed to this process.

As the six performances came to an end, it really hit me what life would be like without *Evita*. There would be the obvious: no more rehearsals, not seeing many of my fellow cast members especially the seniors, very often, and not having to learn anything new for the play. But I also wouldn't have the gift of walking into the auditorium and seeing the set take shape on the stage and the various actors walk onto the stage ready to rehearse. There wouldn't any more dress rehearsals, no more costume fittings, no more sound checks or prop lists. I would never again be with these same people in this place with this play. Now was the time to embrace everything around me and enjoy what was left. As I stood backstage, waiting for an entrance, I wasn't standing alone. I was with people I loved to be with and sharing the love of acting.

After six incredible performances, several sold out, the backstage area was anything but cheerful. Everywhere I looked there were faces of sadness, and many tears were shed. *Evita* had turned out to be a spectacular musical at CCHS. It exceeded everyone's expectations. *Evita* and the many people I was fortunate to have met through the production will always be with me. Of the musicals in which I have participated, none of them has made such an impact on me as this one. I'm thrilled that there are another three amazing years ahead.



CCHS Theater Department to Perform at 2008 Edinburgh Festival Fringe!

CCHS has been chosen to be one of a small number of US high school theater programs to participate in the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) at the world's largest performing arts festival, the Edinburgh Festival **Fringe**, in August 2008. The AHSTF receives nominations of the nation's top high school programs from state, regional, and national organizations and university faculty. Each nominated school completes a comprehensive application which is reviewed by the AHSTF Board of Advisors, a panel of college and professionals from all corners of the country. Top high school programs are identified based on their most recent bodies of work, awards, community involvement, philosophies, and recommendations. To promote diverse participation, AHSTF does not allow schools to participate in back-to-back years. The selected schools are notified in the spring of each year, allowing them more than a full year to plan their once-in-a-lifetime performance on AHSTF's world stage.

Participation in Fringe will involve performing a show "on tour" from the CCHS 2007-08 season, including actors and stage crew. The trip will be 14 days in length, starting in London with tours and shows, and concluding in Edinburgh. Check out the AHSTF's website at www.ahstf.com and the **Fringe** website at www.edfringe.com.

More information will follow as it becomes available!

*George Kendall
CCHS and Drama teacher*

Print, cut and put on your fridge

CCPOPS CALENDAR QUICK TAKES

Thurs., May 3	CCPOPS General Membership Meeting 7:00pm – Little Theater	Sat., May 19 – Sun., May 20	Twelfth Night 7:30pm – Outside, on the 2007 hill Rain location CCHS auditorium
Friday, May 4	Dance Club Choreography Workshop DATE CHANGE Adrienne Hawkins 2:30-4:00pm – CCHS Auditorium	Tues., May 22	Cabaret and Awards Night 7:30pm – CCHS auditorium
Sunday, May 6	Opera Trip to the Shubert Theater <i>Marriage of Figaro</i> – 3:00pm	Mon. - Thurs. May 21 - 25	Fall 3x3x3 Stages Festival Auditions (see postings outside I-6)
Thurs., May 10	Concord Carlisle Instrumental School Student and Faculty Recital 7:30pm – Carlisle Middle School Auditorium	Thurs., May 24	CCHS Orchestra Pops Concert 7:30pm – CCHS Cafeteria
Friday, May 11	CCHS Chorus Trip – Six Flags Music in the Park Festival	Friday, May 25	Hip/Hop Dance Workshop 2:30-4:00pm – CCHS Auditorium
Thurs., May 17	<i>Twelfth Night</i> 7:30pm – Outside, on the 2007 hill Rain location CCHS auditorium	Wed., May 30	Chorus rehearsal 6:30-8:30pm – CCHS Auditorium
Friday, May 18	African Dance Workshop 2:30-4:00pm – CCHS Auditorium	Thurs., May 31	CCHS Chorus Pops Concert 7:30pm – CCHS Auditorium
		Friday, June 1	CCHS Band Pops Concert 7:30pm – CCHS Cafeteria

Chorus News

The CCHS Choral Program has been very busy the last few months, with students attending Junior Districts and preparations for the March Choral Concert and the MICCA Choral Festival. Attending Junior Districts were: **Maree Budris '07**, **Celeste Hall '07**, **Emma Materne '07** and **Katya Meltaus '07** in the Girls Chorus and **Ben Marsh '07** in the Boys Chorus.

The March Choral Concert was presented on Tuesday, March 27 and featured the repertoire that was performed at MICCA 3 days later. At the MICCA Festival the Chorus and Women's Ensemble each received a Bronze Medal and the Select Choir received a Silver Medal. Ms. Smith would like to commend all the students for their exemplary behavior at the festival, particularly in each of their clinics. The panel of judges included 2 professors from Massachusetts colleges, the current president of the American Choral Directors Association, and the Fine Arts Coordinator of the Belmont Public Schools.

On May 11, about 80 students from the choral program will attend another evaluative festival, the Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags. The evaluation will take place at a local school and then the students spend the rest of the day enjoying themselves at Six Flags New England.

Our last choral concert of the year, the Pops Concert, will take place on Thursday, May 31. The concert will feature all our choral ensembles performing a light repertoire such as well-known "oldies" and jazz standards, as well as our annual senior recognitions.

Deborah Smith, CCHS Choral Director

PLEASE

Return Chorus Dresses and Tuxes!

We know that the snappy chorus tuxes and indestructible chorus dresses evoke many fond memories as they hang in the closets or are stuffed under the beds of former chorus members. All good things must come to an end.

We are asking students who are no longer active chorus members to make the break and return their chorus outfits. If you will be a member of chorus next year, please hang onto them. But, if you will no longer be taking chorus we are asking students to return them as agreed. Chorus tuxes should be returned dry cleaned, complete and in good repair. Chorus dresses should be clean. They do not have to be professionally dry cleaned.

If you have any questions about your chorus outfit status, please call or e-mail Nancy Flaherty 978-371-0549 or NFlahe1430@aol.com.

Twelfth Night al Fresco

The cast has been working hard on the upcoming spring production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Our performance venue will be outdoors, here at CCHS in the upper field plateau near the "2008" (above the softball field). Why are we performing outdoors? I want to give both our students and audiences as many theatrical experiences as possible. Outdoor performing is a great deal of fun and unlike anything most of the cast has previously done. The challenges of acting outdoors adds additional things for our actors to consider, the most critical being the need to use a stronger speaking voice. Our set will not have any walls, so there will be on place to "hide" offstage – entrances and exits will not be seconds but minutes long!

The way *Twelfth Night* was cast is somewhat unusual in the respect of gender. The majority of the roles have reversed gender, which gives the text a refreshing spin. This is not the "female playing a male" so common in high school theatre, but the actual switching of the character's gender. For example: Count Orsino becomes Countess Orsino, Sir Toby Belch becomes Lady Tobi Belch, Olivia becomes Oliver, Malvolio becomes Malvolia, and so forth. This did cause us to make some minor changes in the text ("she" to "he", etc.) and "tweak" some of the verse to stay true to Shakespeare's language construction. The results are entertaining to say the least! Performances are 7:30 pm on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 17, 19, & 20 – we are taking Friday off as it is the date of the Junior Prom. Make sure you dress warmly and bring a blanket or chair to sit on! All ticket prices are \$5, general admission.

Remember, the best is yet to come!

*George Kendall
CCHS Theatre and Drama teacher*

Fall Productions Auditions May 21-25

Believe it or not, auditions for the first 2007-2008 show will be coming up soon. The first annual CCHS 3x3x3 Stages Festival is slated for performances in mid-September. The 3x3x3 stages festival is comprised of 3 half-hour shows performed simultaneously in 3 CCHS locations (auditorium, little theatre, courtyard) for 3 times back-to-back-to-back at a single performance.

Auditions will be the week after *Twelfth Night*, May 21-25. Complete details and sign-up times will be posted outside of I-6. Students interested in auditioning should come prepared with a monologue no longer than two minutes and be prepared to do some cold readings.

Alumni News

The CCHS & CCPOPS Reunion Brunch was a great success! With over 130 people attending, the volume at the Concord Children's Center was almost deafening as alumni reconnected with each other and current students. Former tech crew, front-of-house, and cast members from as far back as the Class of 2001 reunited with many of the CCPOPS' Founding Members, including "First Mom" Karen Morse. It was indeed a happy gathering!

Of course, the major attraction was the introduction of Cassie Brown, daughter of former Chorus & Drama Director Chuck Brown and his wife Patty. Ten-week-old Cassie was a perfect angel, and the darling of the event. Thanks to the generous offerings of CCPOPS' families, Cassie's personal library is quite impressive, and thanks to the wonderful photographs taken by Kathy Boucher and the 'Creative Memories' talents of Diane Payne, the Brown family will have a pictorial remembrance of the reunion to add to Cassie's bookcase.

The reunion committee, Sandy Barber, MJ Divino, Lucy Miller and Priscilla Sturges, would like to thank Brenda Delsener and the CCPOPS Board for their support, and Pat Nelson and the Concord Children's Center for the use of the beautiful facility. Appreciation is also extended to the following individuals who made significant contributions to the success of the event: Karen Belinky, Linda Belkner, Kathy Boucher, Charlotte Cardullo, Carmela Horlitz, Kate Kelleher, Marian Levinstein, Nancy McJennett, Jane Turner Michael, Karen Morse, Shelley Orenstein, Anita Teckle, and Donna Vienneau.

*Mary Jane Divino and Lucy Miller
Alumni News Team*

Dance Club News

Dance Club took a hiatus during *Evita*, but was back on track for a wonderful salsa workshop, the second this school year, conducted by Burju Hurtuk. Burju and her fiance Victor, ran a previous workshop in December which attracted 35 people. This workshop also attracted over 30 people. Coming off the musical production in which latin dance was highlighted, the students were up for all the steps, combinations, and partnering moves that were thrown at them. There was much enthusiasm when Burju and Victor thrilled the students with two dance numbers of original choreography that they performed at the end of the workshop. Many students have requested that the couple return in the fall to teach another workshop.

We have four more workshops in the next two months. Two of those workshops will be performed by Adrienne Hawkins, renowned modern jazz choreographer/teacher/dancer, who will continue teaching a hip hop/modern piece which will be performed at the Cabaret and Academy Awards Night on May 22nd. The dates of the workshops are Fridays, April 27th and May 4th at 2:30. On May 18th at 3pm, Alice Heller and drummers will return for the very popular African workshop, which was hugely successful in the fall. Finally, on May 25th, Jimmy Tran, a talented and energetic hip/hop performer and teacher, will teach the final Dance Club workshop of the year.

In the next issue, I will provide of synopsis of what's up for next year in Dance Club. Keep posted, and tell your kids to come. Remember, they don't have to have an extensive dance background to take part in these workshops. They are fun and low key and soulful, and they are open to the whole school community.

*Susanne Liebich
Dance Club Parent Liason*

Please be part of the

Concord Carlisle High School

Annual Cabaret and Awards Night

Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00pm

CCHS Auditorium

Please join master of ceremonies, Campbell Payne '07, and a host of talented CCHS students for an evening of music, romance, accolades, dance, drama. This year we will be honoring members of the CCHS community for their service to the performing arts program for 2006-2007. If you want to perform, please e-mail your name, grade, phone number and act description to [ebdelsener\(at\)comcast\(dot\)net](mailto:ebdelsener(at)comcast(dot)net). Individual participation is limited to one solo and one group act.