

A tale as old as time

HOW THEATER PREPARES FOR HR'S "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"

Danielle Black, *Staff Reporter*

The theater department has produced various performances of classic fairytales, stories, and dramas such as "Peter and the StarCatcher," "The Little Mermaid," and "Cinderella." Their newest production "The Beauty and the Beast" was performed for the first time on Thursday, Feb. 27. However, musicals such as these aren't just thought out and performed blindly. They are crafted and rehearsed so they can be successful and capture the attention of the audience.

Nicole Hudson, English teacher, who has been in theater since she was young, is looking forward to her first production at HR. "I've done some independent films but I decided in college that I'd rather be a director than an actor," she said. "I've already directed "Beauty and the Beast" before. I directed it about 11 years ago, so I was just excited to direct it again just to fix anything and everything that I didn't like in the previous performance."



Maysun Cronk, sophomore, plays Belle in the musical "Beauty and the Beast." Having participated in theater for approximately ten years, Cronk said, "She was my favorite Disney princess when I was little. I related to her a lot. I also just really like the storyline."

Photo by Danielle Black



During a dress rehearsal nine students practice a scene from "Beauty and the Beast."

Maya Guessas, senior, said, "Being in the musical has made me feel more confident in myself. I'm so glad I joined the musical and met all the amazing people I know now."

Photo by Alex Tornato Sotelo

Maysun Cronk, sophomore, sings the song "Belle" on stage during a dress rehearsal. She said, "I like the aspect of giving back to people and showcasing talents of a large group of people. It's just coming together."

Photo by Danielle Black



Maysun Cronk, sophomore (left), and Warren Rockett, sophomore (right), perform the ballroom scene on stage. When asked what he enjoyed most about playing the Beast, Rockett said, "It's been different, and the most enjoyable thing is that it's gotten me more out of my comfort zone."

Photo by

Alex Tornato Sotelo



Warren Rockett and Reagan Schneckloth perform the opening scene for "Beauty and the Beast." Eli Schneckloth, freshman, said, "The casting was impeccable and I can't wait to see the final product." He also said, "The people in theater want to be there, it's a really great environment to be in."

Photo by Alex Tornato Sotelo

WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

- Belle is in her twenties.
- Her character was inspired by Katharine Hepburn from Little Women.
- Mrs. Potts was originally named Mrs. Chamomile.
- The final dance scene used previous animation from Sleeping Beauty.
- The Beast is a mix of many different animals.

Infographic by Kofi Kessey