

ROAR LIKE LIONS

Lion King musical touches the lives of many young actors.

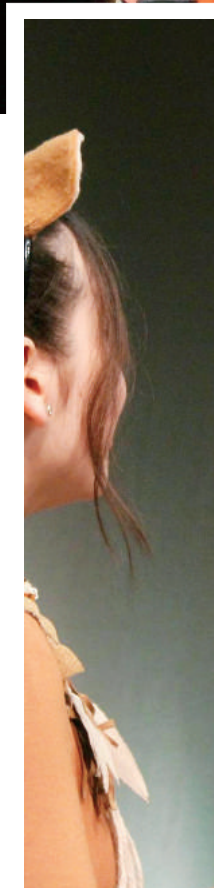
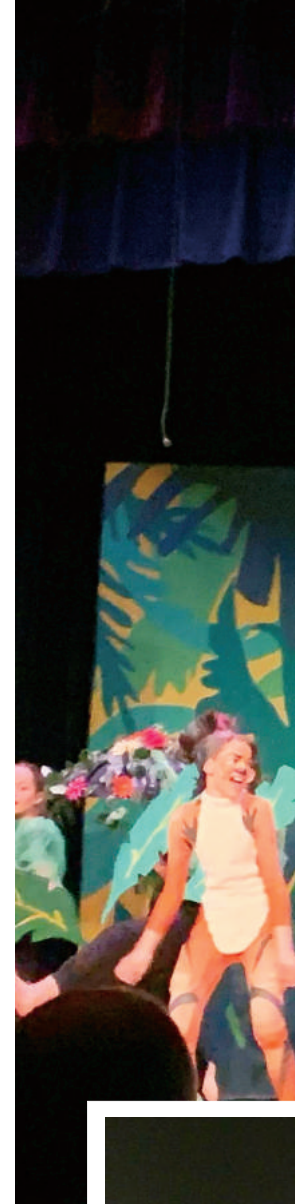
By Kyra Henson

"There is more to see than can ever be seen. More to do than can ever be done" they sing in *The Lion King*. This past year, many of Drake's students and teachers came together to create the perfect depiction of peace and harmony in the African Savanna. "I love the song at the beginning, and I'm excited by the feeling it gives," said Clareth Aguilar-Perez (7). As well as this mood was portrayed, the cast and crew also captured the travesties and sadness that accompanied them to a tee, so much that even those backstage could feel it. "My favorite part of the play was in the beginning when Scar didn't save the king and the lights flashed," said costumer Romely Carreon (7). "It gave me chills!"

Not only were the many actors able to produce a delightful and shockingly realistic show, but they were also able to find time in between the many rehearsals to bond. "I loved that I could enjoy making

new friends, and being with a group of people who share my passion for theatre," said Anjalie Pasrich (7). There were so many new things that those involved learned from this event. "It was cool to get a chance to improve my acting and singing," said Braiden Portie (7). Many different parts were involved in making the play a reality: the actors, stage crew, set designers, costume designers, and more. All of whom were dedicated to making this year's musical the best it could be. "My favorite part of the play was seeing how all the parts come together to create an amazing show!" said Amanda Thomas (8).

Though they sold out all four shows, sadly the performances had to be postponed after the first night due to the school shutdowns in relation to COVID-19. However, the cast was determined that the curtain would rise again once things returned to normal. Until then, it was Hakuna Matata!



IT MEANS NO WORRIES!

Actors in the musical share their highlights of being in *The Lion King*.

*"My favorite part of *The Lion King* has been the safe space that we have here. Nobody judges you for what you like to do." -Ashton Largent (8)*

"MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE LION KING IS HOW WE ALL ARE SO SUPPORTIVE OF EACH OTHER AND HOW WE ALL COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER." -AHNA SMITH (6)

"My favorite part is knowing people outside of my friend groups in the hall!" -Eli Thomas (8)

"I love how connected we were. There was a real sense of community where everyone felt safe and no one was judged. I feel like I have made so many new friends." -Kayla Grenwis (7)



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE. Simba, played by Tate Wride (6) learns what the phrase, Hakuna Matata means while the "jungle" dances around him. His goofy sidekicks, Timone and Pumbaa, played by Will Palmer (6) and Eden Kaplan (6), respectively, captivated the audience's attention with their hilarious improvisations after just moments on stage. "Everybody working together to make it fun is amazing to watch," said Kaplan.

SHE CAN SHINE! Eighth grader Amaya Tate rehearses the opening number, *Circle of Life*. "I remember Amaya in her first drama class, so shy she could barely make eye contact. To watch her shine now, I could cry. She's beautiful," said director Laurel Wicke. **SIBLING SHOW.** Rafiki, played by Jane Wride (8) performs *He Lives in You* as her brother, Tate Wride, looks on, recalling the once great Mufasa. "I loved everything about the play, spending time with friends and doing my part," said Wride.



photo by bill towber



photo by bill towber



photo by nyle miller

JUST DANCE. At musical auditions, Pragna Yalavarthy (6), Anjalie Pasrich (7) and Lydia Mauger (7) perform as maniacal hyenas. "The auditions were like being on a rollercoaster. Everyone was nervous and excited at the same time," said Yalavarthy. **TEAMWORK.** Lionesses Liz Plummer (8) and Clareth Aguilar-Perez (7) get into full lion character before the show. "I loved making new friends and having an extra activity outside of school," said Plummer.

photo by nyle miller

"My favorite part of the Lion King was performing in front of hundreds of people and helping to create an amazing show."

Hudson Oliver (6)
-recalling his best memory.