

a day in rehearsal

Theater designs the set for upcoming musical *Mamma Mia*

3:50pm-4:03pm Warm up

4:03pm-4:06pm 1st song run through

4:06pm-4:14pm 4:06pm-4:14pm Notes

4:14pm-4:19pm 2nd song run through

4:20pm-5:30pm 4:20pm-5:30pm 2nd act run through

5:30pm-5:45pm 5:30pm-5:45pm Notes

SILLY STRETCH Rachel Contreras (11), Sierra Matz (11), and CJ Giseburt (11) laugh while doing their pre-rehearsal warm ups.



photo by hannah rowton

I LOVE YOU Julia Crawley (12) laughs while dancing with friend and cast mate Lily Weisbart (12). **I HAVE A DREAM** Annika Holecsek (12) and Nate Carpenter (11) sing on the balcony of 'La Taverna' as their characters Sophie and Sky.



photo by hannah rowton



photo by hannah rowton

NODDING FOR NOTES The *Mamma Mia* cast sits for notes at the end of rehearsal. Notes were an important part of the rehearsal process. "Notes is feedback we get on our performance for that day," said Kayla Anderson (12).



photo by hannah rowton



IM THE FIRST IN LINE Julia Crawley (12) and Jack Weisbart (10) sing "Take a Chance on Me" during a *Mamma Mia* rehearsal in March. Weisbart really liked the different aspects of the number. "I really like the contrast between the beginning, middle and end," Weisbart said. "I think a lot of growth happens for my character." **I DO, I DO, I DO** CJ Giseburt (11) and Elena Medina (11) dance during the *Mamma Mia* wedding scene as their characters Sam and Donna.



photo by hannah rowton

MEMORIES THAT REMAIN Elena Medina (11) and Michael Spacone (12) sing the heartfelt song "Our Last Summer." "It's my favorite number," Spacone said. "It tells our story, Bill and Donna's story. It's just such a sweet song," Medina said. **SUPER TROOPER** Lily Weisbart (12), Elena Medina (11), and Julia Crawley (12) act as the trio 'The Dynamos' for a scene in *Mamma Mia*. "With those two, it's just the most fun time ever," Crawley said. "I enjoy myself so much, it feels like we're actually the characters."



photo by hannah rowton

painting la taverna

Theater designs the set for upcoming musical *Mamma Mia*

CALMING COLORS Kaden Wank (11) paints the intricate blue tiles onto the main stairs of the *Mamma Mia* set. Wank enjoyed the tranquility that came with set painting. "It's very calming. A lot of the time if I've had a bad day, while I'm painting, I don't have to think about it," Wank said. Wank also enjoyed the community aspect of technical theater. "It makes me feel like I'm a part of something," Wank said.



photo by hannah rowton

THE LITTLE THINGS Jake Shoulders (12) chats with Kaden Wank (11) while painting the set during his off period. Shoulders thought the work took a diligent hand "It is so tedious," Jake Shoulders (12) said. "So many tiles, and we have to make sure each one lines up." Even though set painting was a meticulous job, Shoulders felt it was worth it. "It's the details that count. Even though you might not see the small things from the audience, it matters to me that they are there," Shoulders said.



photo by hannah rowton

all eyes on ensemble

Who are the people in the background?

"Ensemble creates the mood for a scene. They are in the background and add to the energy of the show."

—Zoe Wiley (10)



photo by hannah rowton

OMG Lacy Thompson (9), Zoe Wiley (10), Ellawyn Snyder (10), and Jaya Barry (10) react to a *Mamma Mia* scene.



photo by hannah rowton

CASUAL CONVO Ellawyn Snyder (10), Zoe Wiley (10), Marina Eissenstat (10) chat onstage for a *Mamma Mia* scene.

"If you are an ensemble member you can contribute a lot to the show but there is less pressure to be as perfect as maybe some of the larger roles."

—Jaya Barry (10)

love on STAGE

It's a beautiful summer night and you are on a small Greek island to watch your best friend's daughter get married. In the heat of the moment you decide to bite the bullet and kiss the guy you have been flirting with.

Except he's not some random guy, he's your real life best friend's brother and you are definitely not in Greece but performing on a stage.

This was the case for Julia Crawley (12) and her scene partner Jack Weisbart (10) for the Monarch spring musical *Mamma Mia*.

"It's tricky when that's not how you view each other, when you see each other as just friends to then have to be romantic and intimate," Crawley said. "It feels strange to transition from friends to in love."

Though romantic relationships were sometimes uncomfortable to portray, in the spirit of theater, the cast worked it out.

"It takes a lot of practice," Annika Holecsek (12) said. "You have to understand that this is just a part of your job, and it's not compromising your actual relationship. You work together to make it good."

Romance wasn't the only type of relationship on the stage. Friendship was also at the forefront of the musical, especially between the trio 'The Dynamos'.

"It's so similar to our friendship in real life," Crawley said.

"I feel so much closer to Julia and Lily," Elena Medina (11) said. "You get so comfortable with the people you act with."

Romantic or platonic, on stage or offstage, realistic relationships were vital to put on a great show.

"All the leads have a great energy together," Lily Weisbart (12) said. "We just have so much fun and I think that really translates on stage because that's what this show is supposed to be."