

along THE CATWALK and behind THE SCENES

WHEN THERE'S A PROBLEM,
BLAME THE GHOST

The performing arts department has always been rooted in superstition. From a ritual performed when someone utters the name of a particular Scottish play, to ghosts playing tricks on theater directors, the performing arts hallway is full of folklore.

Phil the Ghost hangs around in the auditorium. He was a real person who was helping build Liberty in 1986. Phil died while working on the building due to an accident on a windy day. Though the crews do not see him as a bad omen, whenever something goes wrong, that's who's to blame. If something goes missing or fails to work, legends say that Phil must have done it. **Terrin Bolin '10**, the chief electrician, shared one of her experiences with this mysterious ghost named Phil.

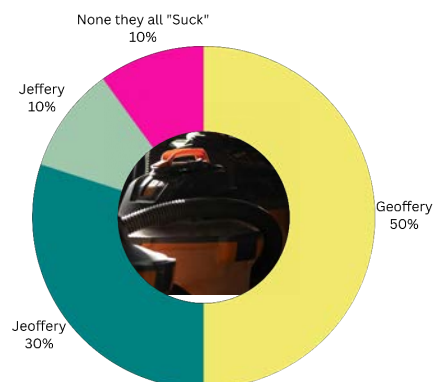
"Before a show, one of the lights was unplugged I tried to figure out who did it or what happened but it was a mystery," Bolin said. "No one had a clue where it was so I just blamed it on Phil."

Another bad omen known throughout the Liberty theater department is the utterance of the Shakespeare play, 'Macbeth'. No matter the show, it's bound to go wrong if you say "Macbeth" inside the auditorium. That is, however, unless you are performing that specific show.

Director **Steven Skelcey** had kicked out two theater students in 2023 for uttering the Scottish plays name. The students were kicked out of the auditorium while Skelcey performed "an undisclosed ritual" to get rid of the bad luck.

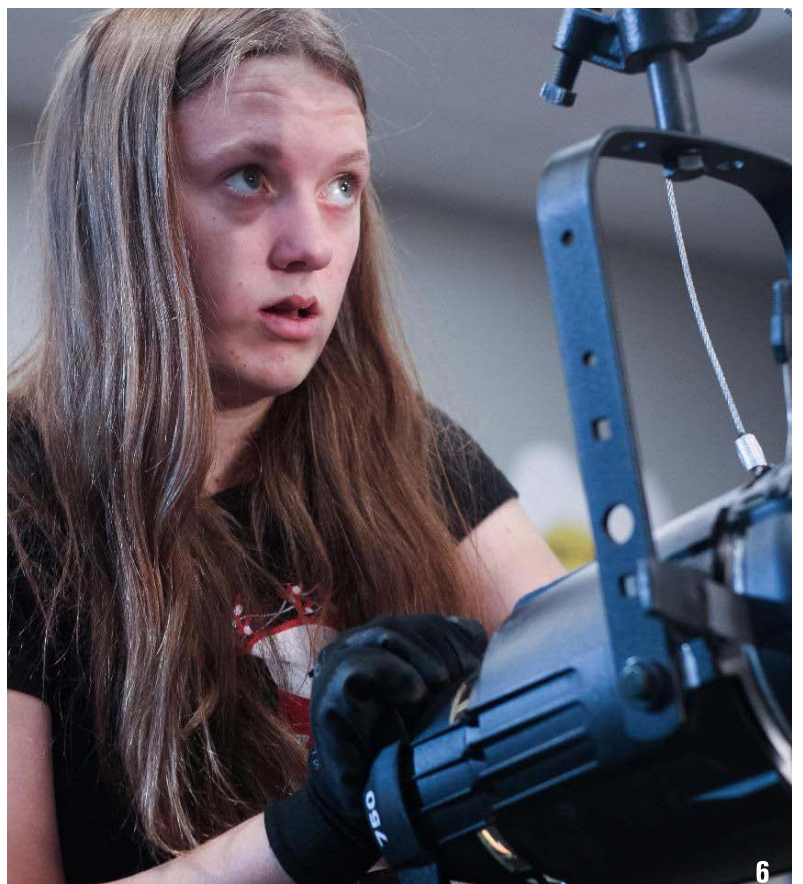
WHICH IS THE BEST JEFFERY THE VACUUM?

The shop has three different vacuums all with the name Jeffery, so we asked 20 crew members which vacuum they thought was the best.



1. USING THE MITER SAW, Rylan

Harmon '11 cuts wooden planks for Scarborough Fair. "The miter saw is my favorite saw," Harmon said. "Put simply, it's efficient, so I like using it. I enjoy using the drills much more because they are simple and easy to use." photo by ellidh gill





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2. PREPING FOR SCARBROOK FAIR, **Kegan Ford** ¹¹ guides a panel of wood through the blade on the table saw. Ford gave his insight on tech theater and how the class has shaped his high school experience for the better. "Tech is one of my favorite classes," Ford said. "Mrs. Winney is a really chill teacher and lets us have a say in most things we do. I love the flexibility and being able to make lots of connections with people." photo by ms gill

3. PRACTICING FOR HIS FINAL, **Anthony Andrews** ⁰⁹ puts on a costume for one of the parts in the Tech Olympics on Dec. 15. The Tech Olympics are a test on all of the crew jobs as a final for Tech Theater I. Although Andrews' team was not able to win, he enjoyed his time in Winney's class. "I have had a fun time with this class and the people in it," Andrews said. photo by finn kenny

4. AFTER A LONG DAY OF WORK THE CREW, **Luc Doan** ¹¹, assistant technical director, starts the Stage Tech's daily ritual. At the end of a class the crew circles up to debrief and talk about the projects and what is yet to come for next time. "We do a little chant!" Doan said. "We have a ritual which begins with someone, currently me, reading a dad joke. When the roaring laughter subsides, we all put our hands in the middle and someone will say 'America on two' then everyone else follows their lead and we all then go home with a big smile on our faces." photo by elidh gill



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5. LIGHTING THE WAY TO VICTORY, **Micha Mills** ⁰⁹ rushes to set up the spotlight; competing to beat the time of her opponents, she had to hook the spotlight to a stand, then adjust where the light shines to a shape on the board. This test was to simulate what light crew would have to do during a show, so speed and accuracy were important to her score. photo by finn kenny

6. SETTING UP A LIGHT, **Rachel Hill** ⁰⁹ practices in a competition against **Micha Mills** ⁰⁹ to improve her team's time. "I joined stagecraft because I watched a Nutcracker performance and the set and costumes were so cool, I wanted to learn how they did everything behind the scenes. Having this class and doing this competition have been able to see all the work they do for these cool performances," Hill explained. photo by finn kenny

SCREAMING CHICKEN OR SAFETY PRO?

This screaming chicken does not have a name, but the official title it has been given is "Shop Safety Chicken." The Shop Safety Chicken is a rubber chicken with a little safety jacket who reminds the students of the shop safety rules. It is hanging on a wall in the shop by the book of dad jokes. The safety chicken was brought into tech theater in 2022 by **Sara Hames** ¹².

"Safety First!"



SOME SAFETY RULES FROM THE SHOP SAFETY CHICKEN:

1. Always wear shoes
2. Wear protective glasses
3. Keep the tools organized
4. Use the right tool for the job your doing

