

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap



The Theater's Unsung Heros

By JOAN M. SMITH

When the curtain goes up and the lights focus on the Mercy-McQuaid Spring play, "West Side Story," scheduled for March 3-4-5, it will be Susan Vergo's Mercy backstage crew supplemented with the McQuaid stagehands who will be responsible for the technical aspects of the production.



Photo by Ben Susso

Enjoying a short rest before taking up paint sponges and working on the set design for "West Side Story" are Patrice Virgil, Terri O'Brien, Rose Ann Trama, and Susan Vergo, stage manager.

Though it will be the actors who will be front and center in the limelight, the behind-the-scenes people will be frantically coordinating their expertise in giving the performance that professional look.

"Audiences do notice the actors more," commented Rose Ann Trama but this fact doesn't bother the Mercy backstage group. Sue, a junior, and co-workers Rose Ann, Patrice Virgil, and Terri O'Brien, all seniors, enjoy handling the backstage chores and enjoy talking about them even more.

Under the direction of their moderator Sister Estelle, the girls work the school plays along with the Mercy-McQuaid joint efforts and Children's Theater. They prepare set designs, learn lighting techniques, and how to operate the spotlight.

Talking about the spotlight brought a grin to Patrice's face as she related the time she first worked it. "The actors were moving," she laughed, "but the spotlight wasn't following them."

But as with everything connected with backstage duty, "You learn as you do it," declared Terri.

The girls agreed that as long as you can follow directions and have an

interest in what you're doing, backstage operations can be fun and successful, except perhaps when you're working a play with fast scene changes. Last year's "Wiley" was one which they said was difficult not only because of the fast scene changes but also because of the number of people involved in the cast. "Over 100! That's when you need all the help you can get," they chorused.

Mercy's backstage crew numbers 30, but like the casting procedures, there are cuts made before the performances and 10 members will be selected to work a play. The crew spends evenings and Saturdays preparing for the various productions and for "West Side" have built an apartment facade, outlined its bricks and windows, and have sponge painted it.

Having to be on hand for the dress rehearsals and all performances Rose Ann moaned, "By the end of the play you've memorized all the lines," and added, "we just see the play from backstage... we just see the actors' backs."

The delicate operation of achieving the proper lighting effects at the right moment in a play is Sue's responsibility. According to her, when there is a dramatic scene the lights are lowered to bring out the full emotional effect, while in a dance sequence the lights will be up high. As stage manager, Sue is on duty not only for all plays but for the recitals, assemblies, and masses held in the auditorium. Her colleagues agreed she's a hard working professional who spends at least 10 hours a week on the job.

The stage crew's work is not done when they bring down the final curtain. Evaluation begins, especially when it is a joint McQuaid-Mercy endeavor. Father William O'Malley brings out his notes and holds a critique session, pointing out the areas which need improvement and the mistakes.

What about mistakes? "They stick out like a sore thumb," exclaimed Sue and added, "the actors are very pronounced about letting us know about them."

And Christy Laws, veteran Mercy actress who will be appearing in "West Side" nodded that while performing, "You do notice the lighting effects." So, don't lose heart stagehands your work does not go unnoticed.

CITY-CATHOLIC BOYS' BASKETBALL

Previous Results

East 71, Aquinas 52; Jefferson 82, Charlotte 79; Madison 84, Edison 56; Franklin 74, Monroe 69; Marshall 74, HAC 56; Madison 111, Franklin 80; Mooney 46, East 45; Jefferson 74, Attica 66; East 72, Monroe 57; Franklin 75, Edison 66; Madison 100, McQuaid 61; Mooney 81, Kearney 54.

Records (2/24)

City-Catholic League: Madison 15-1, Mooney 13-4, McQuaid 10-7, Franklin 10-7, East 10-8, Monroe 6-10, Edison 7-11, Kearney 3-14, Aquinas 2-16.

City-Private League: Jefferson 14-4, HAC 9-5, Marshall 10-7, Charlotte 2-16.

This Week

Section 5 Tournament; Check daily newspapers for teams, sites and times.

CITY-CATHOLIC BOYS' SWIMMING

Records (2/24)

McQuaid 16-0, Charlotte 9-3, Marshall 7-3-1, Edison 7-3, Aquinas 6-4, East 6-4-1, HAC 4-6, Madison 3-7, Monroe 2-8, Franklin 1-10, Jefferson 0-10.

This Week

Friday, March 4/Saturday, March 5 - Intersectional Qualifier; check daily newspapers for site and time.

MONROE COUNTY BOYS' HOCKEY

Previous Results

Irondequoit 3, Penfield 2; Fairport 5, Webster 3; Sutherland 6, Mendon 4; Brighton 9, Rush-Henrietta 3; Penfield 2, McQuaid 1; Webster 7, Kearney 2; Fairport 12, Eastridge 5; Irondequoit 5, Aquinas 4; Mendon 7, Fairport 2.

Records (2/24)

Northern Division: Irondequoit 10-3, Kearney 9-2-2, Webster 6-7-1, Aquinas 5-7-2, Fairport 4-9-1, Eastridge 0-13-1.

Southern Division: Mendon 10-2-1, Sutherland 10-2-1, Brighton 7-4-2, Penfield 6-6-2, McQuaid 6-6-1, Rush-Henrietta 1-13.

This Week

Check daily newspapers for playoff teams, sites and times.

CITY-CATHOLIC BOYS' WRESTLING

Previous Results

City-Catholic League: Championship Finals: Kearney 152-1/2, McQuaid 148-1/2, East 105, Madison 95, Jefferson 57, Edison 51, Franklin 42, Mooney 35-1/2, Charlotte 16, Aquinas 6.

Tournament Champions: 91 - Steve Stadmiller (Kearney), 98 - Rory Legacy (Kearney); 105 - Bob Starkweather (McQuaid); 112 - Terry Roe (East); 119 - Darrell Leslie (Madison); 126 - Paul Nesser (McQuaid); 132 - Maverick Franklin (East); 138 - Mike Morone (McQuaid); 145 - Tom Heindl (McQuaid); 155 - John Walsh (Kearney); 167 - Vic Druziako (Kearney); 177 - Charles Hill (Edison); 215 - Willie Nesmith (Franklin).

CITY-CATHOLIC-PRIVATE GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Previous Results

Mooney 49, Madison 34; Mooney 48, Kearney 23.

This Week

Wednesday, March 2 - Kearney at HAC, Nazareth at Mooney, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 3 - East at Mercy, Franklin at Mooney, Madison at Monroe, RSFD at Charlotte, 3:45 p.m.

Friday, March 4 - HAC at Mercy, Kearney at Nazareth.

Monday, March 7 - Monroe at HAC, Mooney at Madison, East at Franklin, Monroe at Charlotte.



Photo by Ben Susso

No Goal

Bishop Kearney's goalie Pat Doyle is one reason for the BK-icers' successful season. Here he expertly blocks an Aquinas shot on goal in the Feb. 14 game. With a 10-2-2 record, Kearney is tied with Irondequoit for first place in the Northern Division of the Monroe County Hockey League.

Film Program Slated

Area high school students will have the opportunity to attend workshops on film production techniques of super-8 film at Film Factory '77 at St. John Fisher College. The event will be held on March 8, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

According to Dennis O'Brien, assistant director of the Fisher Media Center and coordinator of the Film Factory, the workshop instructors will include area free-lance filmmakers and instructors from St. John Fisher, Monroe Community College, and the Cinemedia Resource Center.

The informal sessions will focus on discussions of filmmaking ideas with the professionals as well as students from other schools engaged in film production.

For further information call the Media Center, 586-4140, ext. 310.