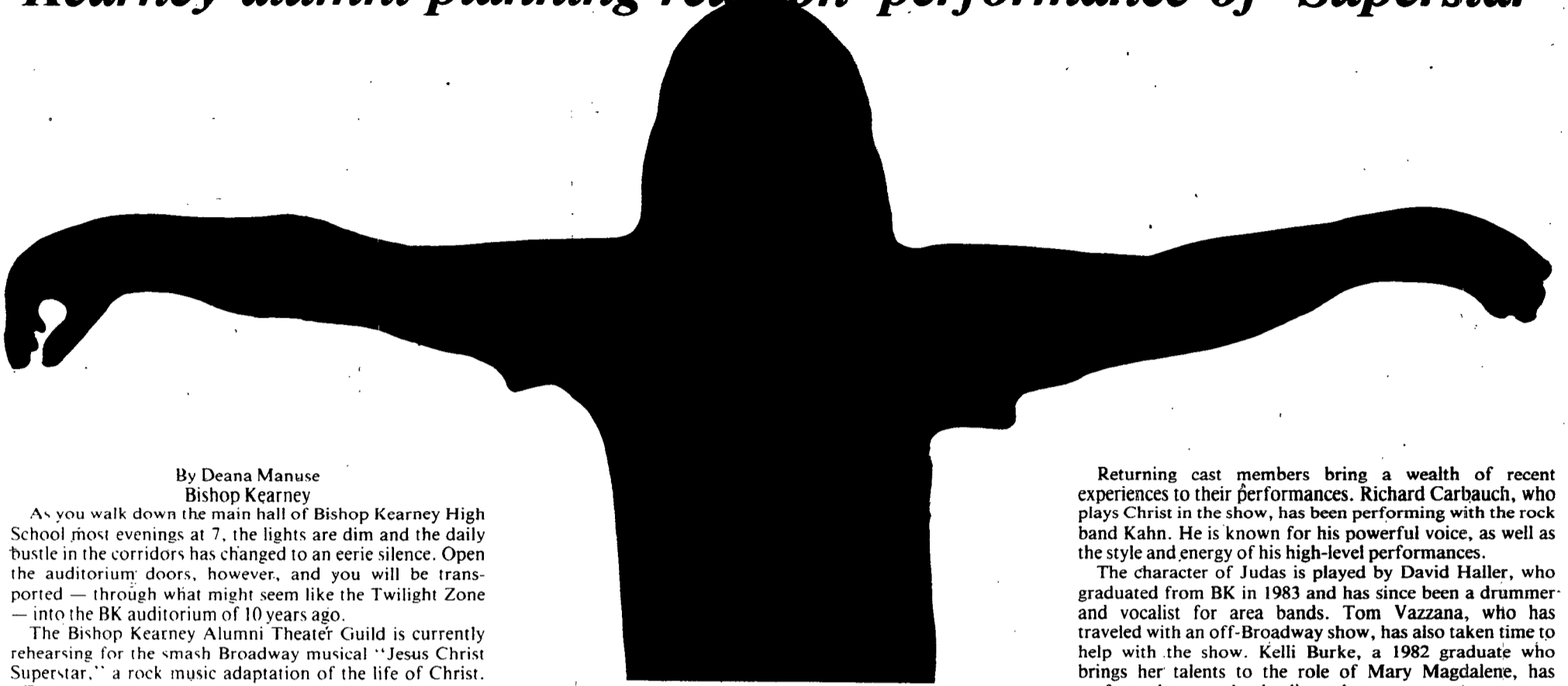


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Kearney alumni planning reunion performance of 'Superstar'



By Deana Manuse
Bishop Kearney

As you walk down the main hall of Bishop Kearney High School most evenings at 7, the lights are dim and the daily bustle in the corridors has changed to an eerie silence. Open the auditorium doors, however, and you will be transported — through what might seem like the Twilight Zone — into the BK auditorium of 10 years ago.

The Bishop Kearney Alumni Theater Guild is currently rehearsing for the smash Broadway musical "Jesus Christ Superstar," a rock music adaptation of the life of Christ. "Ten years ago, the production overwhelmed the audience," says director Ray Shahin. "They (the audience) literally created a command performance, and when one was announced, people bought tickets in blocks of 50 — 850 seats were sold in four hours."

This reunion promises to be even more successful. Under the direction of Shahin, a former Kearney music director, a cast of dedicated alumni has been rehearsing since July — and almost every night since December. The show is scheduled for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2, 8, and 9.

Most of the cast and crew from the 1976 production have returned for the new show, being produced by Dan Schwehn and Tom Erb. Since graduating from Kearney,

members of the 1976 cast have taken various paths, which have led them all over the world. Some went on to Broadway or the West Coast, while others traveled to Europe to perform study and teach. Some alumni have even put their careers on hold to participate in this production.

Most of the students involved in the '76 stage and technical crews went on to careers in those fields, and are now bringing their expertise home. "The familiar music and past quality performances will draw audiences in," said Schwehn, "but the special effects will leave them speechless."

Returning cast members bring a wealth of recent experiences to their performances. Richard Carbauch, who plays Christ in the show, has been performing with the rock band Kahn. He is known for his powerful voice, as well as the style and energy of his high-level performances.

The character of Judas is played by David Haller, who graduated from BK in 1983 and has since been a drummer and vocalist for area bands. Tom Vazzana, who has traveled with an off-Broadway show, has also taken time to help with the show. Kelli Burke, a 1982 graduate who brings her talents to the role of Mary Magdalene, has performed many other leading roles.

In addition to providing several nights of entertainment and giving alumni cause for a reunion, the production has another specific purpose. Proceeds will go to the Mark Dillon Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance to students who demonstrate qualities exemplified by the late Mark Dillon, who died last year after a long bout with cancer. Amiable and courageous, he was able to rise above his illness and participate in a number of school activities. His example created a deep impression among the student body.

For ticket information, call BK weekdays before 3 p.m. or Amy Plasschaeri, (716)544-8062 after 7 p.m.



Judas Iscariot (David Haller) cannot deal with the guilt of having betrayed Christ and hangs himself.



Christ, played by Richard Carbauch (center), is restrained by guards (Murray Fazzi and Chris Borton) as he receives his lashes.

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