



APPLAUSE

January 2009

Editor's Note



Applause would like to congratulate the cast and crew of *The Wiz* on the job they have done. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone that has come to see the musical.

It's been amazing to watch all of the preparations that have gone into the show, and it will be even more amazing to see the performance!

Break a leg!

K. Chaney Long

Chaney.SOA@gmail.com

Cover design by
Kenish Magwood
and
Chrissy Thorne

Congratulations to our
January
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Ms. Crawford



Applause
the official student run paper of
Charleston County School of the Arts
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The Wiz

Cast List

Principal Characters

Aunt Em- **Sabrina McIntyre**

Dorothy 1- **Oleta Johnson**

Dorothy 2- **Johanna Schlitt**

Uncle Henry- **Christopher Richardson**

Addaperle- **Alecia Coutain**

Scarecrow- **Landon Washington**

Tin Man- **Jacob Fanning**

Lion- **Demetrius Washington**

Gate Keeper- **Bailey Gaskin**

Gate Keeper- **Paul Runyon**

The Wiz- **Francis Smalls**

Evillene- **Lydia Kemmerlin**

Lord High Underling- **Brittany Greene**

Soldier Messenger- **Austin Jur**

Glinda- **Candice Jenkins**



January Calendar

- Jan 20** Report Cards Issued
The Wiz FULL DRESS Preview
- Jan 21** *The Wiz* Performance
MS Leadership Meeting
- Jan 22** *The Wiz* Performance
CCSD Principal Meeting
- Jan 24** All State Band Auditions at Lexington High School
- Jan 26** Winter Formal Band Auditions sponsored by Student Council
3:35 pm – 4:30 pm
Premier Agenda Meeting at 10:30 am
Junior Parent Meeting at 5:30 pm in Cafeteria
- Jan 28** IGP/High School Pre-Registration Meeting for 8th Grade Parents
8:15 am; 3:45 pm and 5:30 pm in Cafeteria
Black Box Booster Meeting at 5:00 pm in Shop
SOA Leadership Team Meeting
- Jan 29** PTSA Reflections Art Contest at 5:30 pm in BB
- Jan 30** Fighting Gnomes to Travelers Rest HS for Improv Theatre Outreach

January Arts Calendar

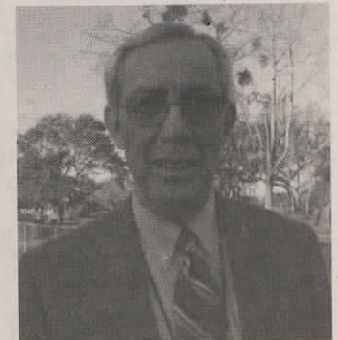
- Mondays** Monday Night Blues at East Bay Meeting House
- Wednesdays** Laugh for a Lincoln improv at Theater 99, 8pm
- Thursdays** open mic at Kudu Coffee
- January 14th- 25th** The Minds I at the Chapel Theater at the College of Charleston
- January 16th- 31st** *Doubt, A Parable* at the Village Playhouse
- January 17th** 70's Soul Jam at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center
- January 23rd-25th** "Magical Mystery Tour" ballet by Charleston Ballet Theater at the Black Box Theater on King St.
- January 25th** Lowcountry Oyster Festival at Boone Hall Plantation
- January 31st** Charleston Symphony Olympics Tribute Family Concert, at the Gaillard Auditorium

The 3D's

By Kimberly Jenkins

As SOA eases on down the road with *The Wiz*, all of the students, teachers, and administrators are catching "Wiz fever." I decided to ask, "Mr. Davis, if you could be any character in *The Wiz*, who would it be and why?"

"I would have to say the Tin Man because he gains a heart, and at my age I could use a heart."



Who is your favorite character in *The Wiz*?

"I would have to say, Dorothy because she is such a strong person and she is very courageous and never gives up."



Who is your favorite character in *The Wiz*?

"I really like Dorothy because she is such a kind girl and sticks by her friends even though times get rough."



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Meet the principal cast of *The Wiz*

Jacob Fanning: The Tin Man

By Dorothy Behre

What have you enjoyed most about playing the Tin Man?

It's definitely getting fitted for my costume. It's ridiculous. It's made out of about ten parts, so you can imagine it's hard to put together, and in it I'm completely silver.

How is the Tin Man in *The Wiz* different from that in the classic 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*?

Well, my character in *The Wiz* is a bit crazier. He's kind of ADD, whereas the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* is more of a sweetheart.

What has been the biggest challenge about playing the Tin Man?

The biggest challenge is the solo dance, just because it's a solo and I've never really danced before.

What are you most excited about *The Wiz* going onstage?

I'm most excited about seeing the set. I'm looking forward to seeing what it looks like when it's finally put together.



Landon Washington: The Scarecrow

By David Sass

How do you relate to character?

The Scarecrow and I are alike in the fact that we are both actually smart but really don't know it. I think that the Scarecrow is the best character but only because I get to play the part.

What has been the most enjoyable part of playing the Scarecrow?

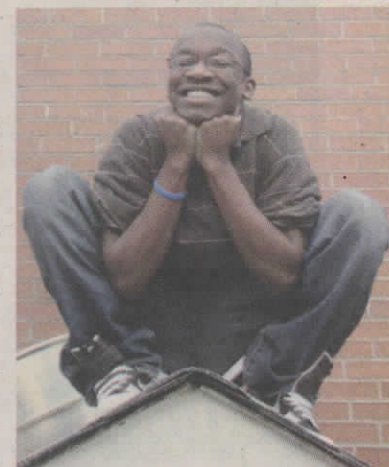
The most enjoyable part is just being a part of the cast and performing with other kids in the school.

What sort of things have you done to prepare yourself for the musical?

I practiced my lines almost everyday. I listened to my song all day. My mom would yell at me for blasting the song in my room.

Wait, if your character is supposed to be brainless, how are you answering these questions?

I shouldn't even answer this question because y'all tryna stew me! But that's okay; I got something for you, Sass!



Oleta Johnson and Johanna Schlitt: Dorothy

By Rebecca Forman



What is the most exciting aspect of *The Wiz* for you?

Oleta: I am just excited to perform this thing. I am very anxious to get it over with.

Johanna: I am excited about getting the chance to play such a classic,

famous, and challenging role, and working with all of these wonderful people.

What is it like sharing the role of Dorothy?

Oleta: It's great; we're like a two-headed Dorothy. I've learned a lot from her, since she has more musical theatre experience. She is such a sweet person, and so talented. I've loved working with her, but we have different personalities. That is evident in the way we portray Dorothy.

Johanna: It is a new experience to be double cast. Oleta is very talented and nice. I didn't really know her before *The Wiz*, but now we're really good friends. The trick is not to copy what the other person is doing, because then are you not acting in the moment. But sometimes I'll take

some of her good ideas and she'll take some of mine.

How does Dorothy in *The Wiz* differ from Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*?

Oleta: Dorothy definitely has more sass and attitude in *The Wiz* than in the movie, but anyone who has read Frank Baum's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, will see that Dorothy in *The Wiz* is more like the character in the book.

Johanna: Dorothy is basically the same. She's just funkier.

How have you prepared for this role?

Oleta: I never thought it would be easy, but there's a lot more to these productions than most people think. I've learned the importance of each person. All the chorus members and townspeople are truly what will make this show so amazing.

Johanna: I am used to playing either really funny or really crazy roles, so I had to learn how to be a normal person put in crazy situations instead.



Demetrius Washington: The Lion

By Rebecca Forman

How do your traits match those of The Lion?

Right about now I'm lacking courage, and I'm a bit scared for the show. It's the first show I've ever done. The Lion and I are twins right about now.

Do you have any tricks as an actor/performer?

You have to realize that you aren't yourself up there, you are a character. Instead of thinking about how others are going to view you negatively, you have to think about how they will view you positively when you portray the character well.

How was the audition process?

The first day you learned a song, the second day you learned a dance routine to go with the song, and the third day you put it together and auditioned in the black box. That Friday they posted the roles.

How did it feel singing and dancing together?

It was a different experience, but I wouldn't say it was hard. I don't want to brag, but I'm definitely coordinated. I don't have a problem with dancing. I'm not the greatest, but I'm not horrible.

Did you think you would get the role of The Lion?

I had some competition. There were a few people that I'm friends with that I could see playing the role. I just didn't think it was going to be me. I actually wanted to be *The Wiz*. I didn't think it was good enough to be *The Lion*. I got the results though, and it was like "well, okay, I got this. I got the part and now I have to do it."

How do you view The Lion? How do you want to portray him?

I see the lion as a character who struggles to be strong. He tries to put on a front that he is the biggest and the baddest. But in reality, he is weak. He tries to

scare everybody, when he's the only scared one in the room. I try to show this by having him hide behind the tin man while roaring at people. Basically, the lion is a mess. He's this big, furry, bipolar mess.

How have you prepared for this role?

With a lot of practice, and rehearsing my lines every night. There was a time when I wasn't sure I would have all of it together. In the end, I learned everybody's lines, because if you don't, it just becomes one giant monologue, and you don't know your cue.

What have you learned from being in this production?

I have learned so much. I've learned to try new things. The entire experience is something I've never



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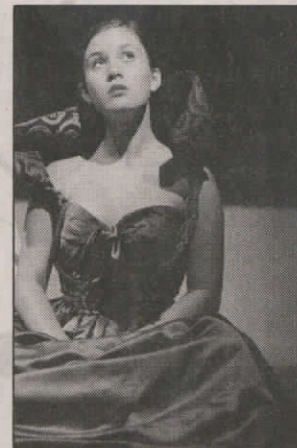
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Alecia Coutain: Addaperle

By Kimberly Jenkins

What prompted you to audition for *The Wiz*?

This is my senior year so I wanted to do as much as possible. I wanted to do something that people can remember for years to come. Also, I had never done a musical before, so I thought it would be a good experience.

How does your character fit into *The Wiz*?

My character, Addapearle, basically tells Dorothy about the royal and magical "Wiz," but she doesn't tell her how to get to Emerald City which is the place where *The Wiz* lives.

Is this your first lead role, and if so, has it been difficult?

This is my first lead role and this experience is not what I originally thought of in my mind. I think I bit off a little more than I could chew.

What is your favorite song in *The Wiz*?

My favorite song is "If I Could Feel." The song is heart-warming and the lyrics are really powerful. If I really listen to the lyrics, I could start crying.

Out of the three witches, which of them do you relate to the most?

Out of the three witches, I relate to Addapearle

Lydia Kemmerlin: Evilene

By Kimberly Jenkins



What prompted you to audition for *The Wiz*?

I auditioned for *The Wiz* because I loved being in *Big River* freshman year, and I also wanted to show people that you don't have to be confined to your major.

How does your character fit into *The Wiz*?

Evilene is the wicked witch who tries to keep Dorothy from getting to Oz.

Is this your first lead role, and if so, has it been difficult?

Yes, it is my first lead role in a major

production, and let's just say it hasn't been easy. the most. Not because that is the character that I play, but from being in the musical I have come to the realization that I act a lot like her! I believe that I embody a lot of those qualities in one way or another.

What has been the biggest challenge?

Before I auditioned for *The Wiz*, I thought that the biggest challenge was going to be managing my time well and keeping up my grades. Much to my surprise that was not the case; the biggest challenge has been working/being in a positive atmosphere.

Thankfully enough, this challenge was overcome over time and it felt good to have fun again.

***The Wiz* sounds like a pretty big commitment. If given the choice would you audition again?**

I would not audition. It has been way too time consuming, and I could have been working which gives me money (that I so desperately need) to save for college!! For me, doing this musical is something that is a good experience, but it is a once in a lifetime opportunity!

What character in *The Wiz* do you relate to the most?

Addapearle because she sure knows how to get down.

What is your favorite song in *The Wiz*?

"Born the Day Before Yesterday," especially when Landon sings it. It's so soulful and you can't help but sing along.

Out of the three witches, which of them do you relate to the most?

Probably Addapearle because she's so crazy, cracking jokes all of the time.

What has been the biggest challenge?

The song I have to sing. At first, I had difficulty with it but over time with help from everybody, I got it.

***The Wiz* sounds like a pretty big commitment. If given the choice would you audition again?**

Definitely. It has been such a great experience working with such hilarious and talented people.

Candice Jenkins: Glenda

By Kimberly Jenkins

What prompted you to audition for *The Wiz*?

I auditioned for *The Wiz* because I was familiar with the musical and I really like it.

How does your character fit into *The Wiz*?

Glinda is a really important character because she is the one Dorothy ends up relying on.

Is this your first lead role, and if so, has it been difficult?

This was my first lead role. It was extremely difficult because having a lead role is very demanding.

What character in *The Wiz* do you relate to the most?

I relate to Glinda (my character) the most because we have similar traits again.

Francis Smalls: The Wiz

By Alek Mihok

Is this your first performance? If not, what else have you been in?

Yes, this is my first acting performance I've ever been in.

How does your character, the Wiz, compare to you in real life?

My character is larger than life. I sometimes imagine myself possessing magical powers, but at heart I know I'm just a normal guy.

Do you have any tricks to memorizing your lines?

The only things I can do are read and recite them over and over and over again.

What are the benefits, in your opinion, to performing on stage in *The Wiz*?

and she is much like myself.

What is your favorite song in *The Wiz*?

I really like the majority of the songs but, if I had to choose it would be "Y'all Got It" by the Wiz.

What has been the biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge has been rehearsals. It's really hard getting a large group of kids to work together successfully.

***The Wiz* sounds like a pretty big commitment. If given the choice would you audition again?**

The Wiz was a huge commitment and it wasn't always fun. But honestly I'm not sure if I would audition



I enjoy being in *The Wiz* because I get to interact with people I would've never known before.

Do you work well with the other actors in *The Wiz*?

Yes, surprisingly we all get along greatly.

Have you made any progressions in your art major by participating in this production?

By being in *The Wiz*, it allows me to be exposed to many different types of difficult music, and for me, as a vocal major, that is important.

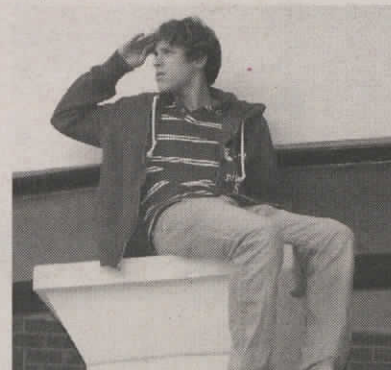
Do you think costume design did a good job of capturing everything your character stands for?

Costume design did an extraordinary job with the costumes! They really blew my mind. My costume is fabulous

beyond comparison.

Austin Jur: Soldier Messenger

By Alek Mihok



How does your character compare to you in real life?

I'm not an evil minion to a witch, as my character is in *The Wiz*, so I'd have to say that my character does not relate to me at all in real life.

Do you have any tricks to memorizing your lines?

Sometimes I memorize the last paragraph first, and then work my way up from there. That helps me a lot in the memorization process.

Have you made any progressions in your art major by participating in this production?

Certainly! I have found new characteristics that I can use for the characters I develop in theatre.

Congratulations to the cast of *The Wiz*



Jonathon,
As you "ease on down the road" of life, our wish for you is that you always go in style- like you did on the night of this photo! Break a leg, but stay out of the pit!
Mom, Dad, Bubba & Chrissy



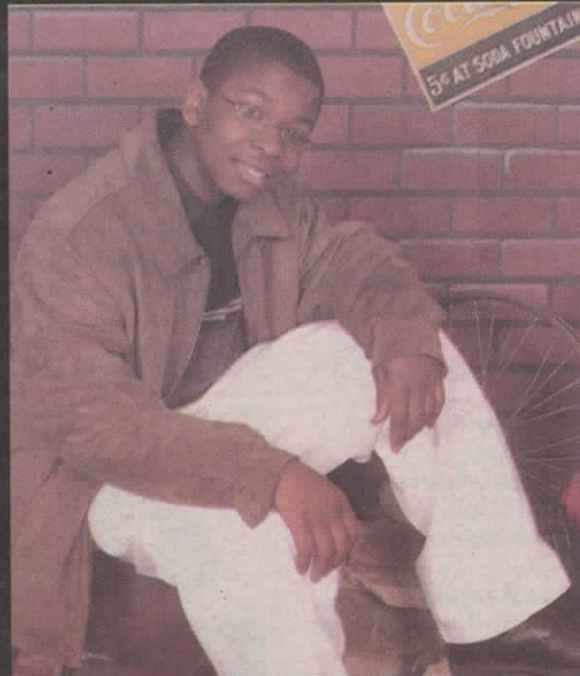
Nikki,
Congratulations on your wonderful performance in *The Wiz*. You were awesome. I have enjoyed watching you blossom into the beautiful young lady you have become. I am very proud of you. Just having you as a daughter is something to celebrate.
Keep reaching for the stars.
Love you,
Mom



Emma,
Play pretty like you always do! We love you and are so proud of you.
Love,
Dad, Mom, Levin, and Alexander



Break a leg Paul Runyon!
We are behind you.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Craig, Sarah and Philip



Francis,
I am incredibly proud of you and your accomplishments. Continue to follow your dreams, and do the best you can.
Love always,
Your Dad



Landon,
Wonderful actor, wonderful singer and wonderful son. We could not be more proud of you, and we love you very much!
Mom and Dad

Break a leg!

PATSY



Patsy,

We are all so proud of everything you have accomplished and the woman you have become. Can't wait to see what the future holds.
 "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss

Dearest Johanna,
 We want to say we're proud
 of you;
 Yes, Mom and Dad and
 Simon, too,
 Send all our love so that you'll
 find
 The Scarecrow, Lion, Tinman
 kind,
 And melt the witch so you
 won't roam,
 But find your way to come
 back home.
 Love,
 Mom & Dad



Bailey Gaskin

Way to go! Excellent! Superb! Amazing! Fantastic!
 Love,
 Mom, Dad & Tripp



Candice Symone Jenkins

Warm up the vocal chords and Sing!
 Wishing you (& the cast) a wonderful performance
 The Jenkins Family

Congratulations, Chelsey! You make us proud.
 Love,
 Mom, Daddy, Aunt Lisa, Juliet, Grandma and
 Poppy



Brady,

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to
 the mind, flight to the imagination, and life
 to everything." – Plato
 We're very proud of you, Brady!! Keep music
 in your life.

Love,
 Mom and Dad



Rebecca,

I am so proud of you. You have always been a
 star in my eyes, so continue to shine always.

Love you forever,
 Mom

Bailey Gaskin: Gate Keeper

By Chelsea Adent

What has been the most fun thing about preparing for the performance?

Everyone has really come together and we're like a family.

What has been the most significant thing you have learned?

You learn what you're really capable of. All of the teachers push you to be the best you can be and they really want us to be spectacular. They never give up on us.

What has been the hardest part for you in preparing for the performance?

All of the rehearsals have been really tough. We have a mass amounts of rehearsal and we

work straight through them. It's really hard to be after school almost everyday singing and dancing and trying to make a great show.

What has been the most memorable moment you've experienced so far?

We had a Saturday rehearsal, and at lunch, Jacob Fanning and Paul Runyon suggested we all go play Red Rover. It was intense.

What do you enjoy most about being a part of *The Wiz*?

I just enjoy being a part of it. You get to meet a



whole set of people that you probably wouldn't have known otherwise and become close to them.

The whole school gets to watch you perform, and you get to show everyone all of the hard work that you've put into it.

What advice would you give a student who was interested in being a part of the next SOA production?

Be ready to dedicate your life to the performance. You have to be ready for a multitude of rehearsals and letdowns. Work hard, stay super focused, and believe in what you're doing. Let go and have some fun, and there will never be a dull moment.

What are you going to miss the most about preparing for *The Wiz*?

I'm really going to miss working with the cast, especially Paul. He's my other Gatekeeper and I couldn't have done this without him, or any other members of the cast for that matter.

If you could be any other role in *The Wiz*, who would it be and why?

Evillene! She sings the best song ever, and I personally think that I was born to play the mean, evil role. It's an amazingly-written character and she really gets to sing loudly and powerfully in the song she sings.

Sabrina McIntyre: Auntie Em

By Dorothy Behre

What is your major, and how long have you been at SOA?

I'm a freshman vocal major. I've been at SOA since the 6th grade, but have been singing for 10 years.

Is that the role you auditioned for?

I wasn't auditioning for a specific role, I was just happy to get in.

How did you feel during auditions?

I was very nervous, but so ecstatic!

As a vocal major, is your favorite part of the musical singing?

I love all of it: acting, singing and dancing. I've been acting for 7 years, singing for 10 years and dancing for 4 years.

What is your favorite part about being in *The*



Wiz?

My favorite part about being in the show is being able to say that I was in a big production from SOA.

Do you perform often, or is this your first time?

I've been performing since I was in the second grade.

Do you do anything special to prepare for going onstage?

I sing my ABC's so I won't be nervous, which is silly, right? And of course, I say a prayer.

What do you think viewers should expect on opening night?

An awesomely spectacular show! So many people have worked so hard, it's going to be amazing.

Paul Runyon: Gate Keeper

By Lizzie Caulder

What have you done to prepare for your specific role?

I have devoted all of my time to this musical endeavor. I have studied my lines and studied the music very heavily.

What has been your favorite part in the making of *The Wiz*?

The cast camaraderie.

I have gained so many new friends. We are like a family now.

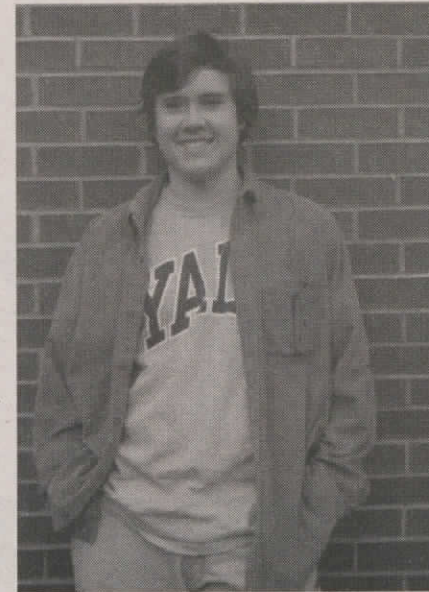
What has been the most difficult part for you?

All the hours we have put into the show. I didn't realize how much work it was going to be.

Do you have any lines or songs to memorize? If so, what are some ways to help you learn them easier?

Yes, I do have lines and songs to memorize. Some things that help me are reading the lines multiple times and then working with another cast member to make sure I know them.

What is the most memorable moment you



have had in this process?

What I remember most is the first time we ran the show with the orchestra. You could feel the energy permeating from the cast members.

What is the most important thing you have learned while doing *The Wiz*?

Definitely responsibility. We have had to have so much of it, that it is engrained in my brain.

What do you enjoy most in preparing for *The Wiz*?

I enjoy putting all of the acting, dancing, and singing together. There is no greater rush when you succeed in these aspects.

What would be your advice to someone planning on being in the next School of the Arts production?

I would tell them to make sure they have nothing

on their schedule. Musical theater takes up all of your time, but it is rewarding.

Chris Richardson: Uncle Henry

By Monique Collins

What do you like most about being a part of *The Wiz*?

Just hanging with all the people involved. Everybody is so much fun, and we basically spend the whole time, singing and dancing, and just having loads of fun.

How do you cope with busy rehearsal schedules and schoolwork?

I don't a lot of the time. We basically eat, sleep, breath, and vomit *The Wiz*. Thankfully most of the teachers understand the weight that *The Wiz* puts on us, although I wish certain teachers would learn not to give tests, the day after a double rehearsal.

How do you handle stage fright?

I have never had a problem with stage fright, I get nervous just before a show, but as soon as the curtain goes up I go into auto pilot, and nothing else

fazes me, but the show itself.

When you discovered you got the role as Uncle



Henry, what was your reaction?

The first thing I asked when I got the role was, "Who is Uncle Henry?" (which seems to be everyone's reaction when I tell them.) But once I learned he was Dorothy's uncle I was ecstatic, mostly because I knew he wouldn't have to sing. I can't sing to save my life.

If you could, would you audition for *The Wiz* all over again, and why?

Of course, I would do it again, just to re-learn Ms. Lucas' dance again. We learned a dance to the Bee-gees "Staying Alive." But I would do it again, and try to have

more confidence in my audition. I don't get stage fright, but I do get audition anxiety!

Peter Pan star enjoying Duke

By Kimberly Jenkins

Andrew Bentz, 2003 graduate of SOA, is currently attending graduate school at Duke University, where he is studying political science. He played the role of John in SOA's 2002 production of *Peter Pan*.

What do you miss the most about SOA?

I miss two things most. First is the congeniality and support system that exists not only within the student community but also within the entire school. I felt as comfortable talking to some teachers as I did my friends, and that really helped a lot. I found that in college that person-to-person level of contact lessens between students and teachers. Second, I miss the interdisciplinaryism that SOA offered. As artists we were constantly working with others who created in different mediums. It was an amazing thing to be able to work with visual artists, dancers, and writers on one production or project.

What do you enjoy the most about university life?

The freedom to do what you want in both college and graduate school is the best aspect. I think it's one of the most exciting



times of anyone's life when they have very few responsibilities to other people, and very little holding them down. By that, I mean you don't have children or a job to which you are tied. So, you're free to pursue your interests and new experiences without too much trouble.

How has your SOA education helped you in college?

The best preparation I received for college and graduate work I got in the ninth grade from Mrs. Yatsco's English class. I cannot tell you how many collegiate students do not know how to write

a decent essay. I benefited greatly from the structure she taught and the research tools she offered.

What are your plans after graduate school?

After graduate school, I plan to go on to law school. It's still unclear where I am headed, but I should know soon.

Several years ago, you participated in *Peter Pan*. How has that experience shaped your perception of the arts?

Flying is fun; but it takes a lot of work to create magic.

"Huck" rocks out at C of C

By Tanya Lewandowski

Corey Webb is a 2006 SOA graduate who currently attends the College of Charleston and is studying Music Theory/Composition. You may remember him from his musical theatre debut in *Big River* in which he played Huckleberry.

What do you miss the most about SOA?

I miss the personal and academic attention that one receives

as an arts student. Now that I am in a larger work environment, I am more disciplined and essentially fending for myself as far as my artistic studies go. I also miss getting to hang out with folks in the parking lot.

How do you like college?

It treats me fine. I have been recording other musicians as a way to make money.

What plans do you have after college?

Hopefully I'll be famous by then, but otherwise, I'll be living with my mom until I am. Also, there is the possibility that I will travel to Ukraine to continue my studies in composition.

How is your music career going?

My music career is actually now getting ready to take off. Why? Because I just started playing with a new band which includes my

two roommates, a drummer, and a pianist from the College. We are all on the road to a degree in music, or have already received one. We were formerly known as the Corey Webb Band, but I felt like an elitist. Now we call ourselves Bodies Full of Magic, and we are primarily playing music that I've written or that we write together. It's a fantastic band

and we just put our press release together with plans to go official mid-January. We will be playing everywhere that's hot.

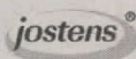
Several years ago, you performed in the school musical, *Big River*, as a senior. How has this experience influenced your perspective on the arts?

I often see folks who recognize me as Huckleberry and that's always been a good icebreaker. But honestly, working

on *Big River* was one of my most enjoyable of artistic endeavors. It was a fantastic culmination of cooperation, expression, and focus. It rocked. The entire process so incredibly rewarding and when I took my final bow at the last curtain call, the roar of the crowd was staggering. Having such a surreal artistic experience at such a young was eye-opening; it showed me just how much artists are cherished in our culture. It was such a rush. I want that again.



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play
organize
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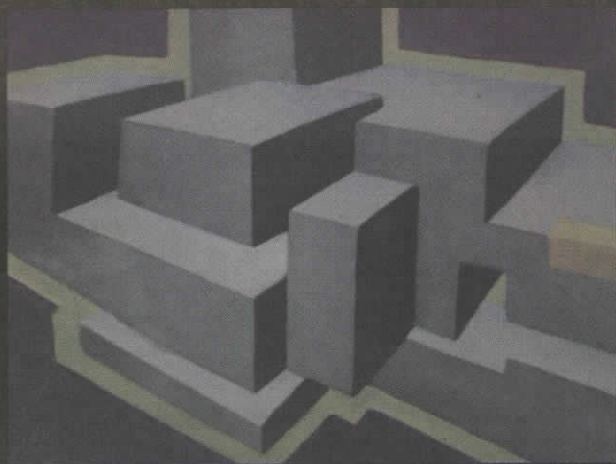
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Student Artwork



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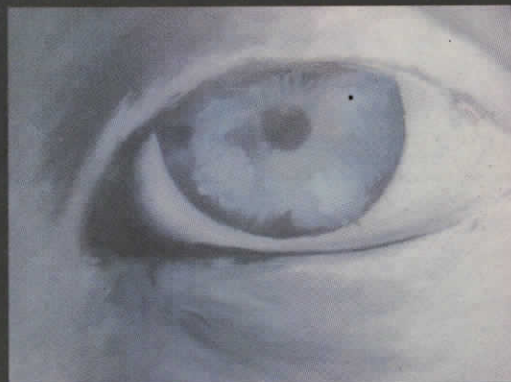
By Austin Jarvis



By Kim Palomo



By Chuck Smith



By Kiki Harper



By Kaitlyn Battistelli



By Adam Fallen

Ms. Link: The Director

By K. Chaney Long



What has been your biggest challenge about *The Wiz*?

Battling all of our schedules. Every major has after school rehearsals, practices, or concerts so we have to work around them.

Why was *The Wiz* chosen as opposed to the traditional *Wizard of Oz*?

We're always comparing the *Wizard of Oz* to the movie with Judy Garland. I think *The Wiz* provides us a little bit of a break from that.

This was your first time directing a production for SOA that's not only outside the theatre department, but with all high school grades and majors. How has that been?

I love it! Though I love my theatre majors, it's nice for me to get to know other students. It shows me the need for a lot more cross curricular activities. I'm a true advocate for the infusion of the arts, so this was a great opportunity for me. In the same respect, it's been little hard because each major has different expectations. There was a learning curve for me because some people have never had the experience of what we expect in theatre. I had to go back to the drawing board. When I give criticism, I expect a theatre major will know that we're going to harp on the things that we need to do better, but a lot of people were expecting more praise right off the bat. There was a learning process, but I enjoy learning about the way that things work everywhere else.

Why are there two Dorotheas?

We wanted to create as much of an ensemble as possible. Usually Aunt Em and Glinda are cast together, and Addaperle and Evilene are cast together, but we chose to split up all those roles. Dorothy is a huge role. It's also vocally taxing. We had to take that into consideration before auditions.

What are you most looking forward to about the show going up on stage and the production happening?

I'm really excited for the students who have never been on stage before, and for them to have that feeling of performing for a group of people. I love the fact that they get this opportunity. I'm just going to be really excited to see them shine.

Mr. Baker: The Assistant Director

By Forrest Putnam

What does your job involve?

I help Ms. Link artistically, as well as making sure everything comes together. I'll visit the costume shop to make sure everyone is on track, and study the choreography, making sure it's in line with what we're doing. I'll visit the rehearsals and everything, just making sure that every aspect of the artistic side of the production comes together nicely.

***Big River* was extremely well-produced and choreographed. Do you feel that *The Wiz* will exhibit the same quality upon completion?**

I wasn't here when they did *Big River*, but I heard it was very good. *The Wiz* is an intensely more flashy and complicated production. We have made 160 costumes, that's the most costumes I have ever made. We're expecting a lot of special effects, and I think it's going to be a much bigger show than *Big River* was.

What do you expect an audience to get out of the performance?

The script of *The Wiz* itself is an old story with a new twist, and we're taking that script and

doing our own version of that. For those that are familiar with both the original story and *The Wiz*, they'll be getting that, but with our own new ideas. There will be some surprises, and it is a very mixed-emotion show, so I think the audience will experience that.



Ms. Fitzgerald

By DeAnna Kerley

What is your role in the production of *The Wiz*?

I have been assisting Mr. Kerr with the orchestra rehearsals and I've been recording the orchestra rehearsals. I've also been working on the program committee of accepting money from donors.

What are you most excited about for *The Wiz*?

It's going to be a great show and I'm looking forward to when it all comes together: the set, the lights, the kids, the music, everything. It's going to be a really awesome show.

What have been some of the challenges you've encountered so far?

It's hard staying after school and spending all

Mr. Kerr: Band Director

By Wes Snell

How many musicals have you done?

I've done every musical here except the first one, *Oklahoma*.

Which was the most challenging?

Definitely *Gypsies and Dolls*. It was the first year we had a full high school, and the lack of experience combined with the complicated score made things very difficult. We were really scared, the whole faculty working the show, even the kids. But we made it happen because, typical of SOA kids, they managed to pull it together make it work.

Which was the best?

That's difficult to say. I'd say, in terms of orchestration, we did a good job with *Peter Pan*. And the set was beautiful. Mr. Younts did an amazing job with the set, it was Broadway quality, but it nearly did him in. We had great musicians that year and great acting as well. I'd give *Peter Pan* an edge for the sheer size of it.

How does *The Wiz* compare?

It's interesting; this is the perfect year to do *The Wiz* because the rhythm section and the jazz band are all experience players. Robert Widlowski is the secret to all this. The music is funk and soul, very bass heavy, very 70's retro. Without a good bass man, the piece just wouldn't work, and we happen to have the best one in the state. We've got two great keyboard

that time – it's really tough. But it's worth it. **What has been your favorite memory of *The Wiz* so far?**

The best memory has been the music. I really enjoy it; it's really jazzy and snazzy, and I really like that.

What experience have you brought to this production?

We had *Big River* a couple of years ago; that was fun. Then, we had *Fantasia* before that. It's been a pretty big production, but I'm enjoying it!

What advice would you like to give to the cast?

I think that they should relax, enjoy themselves, and know their lines!

players, Demetrius Doctor and Trey Cooper, John Criminger on drums, Adam Fallen on guitar, and when you put such an experienced rhythm section together it comes out really rocking.

How closely do you follow the score when you're doing a musical?

Sometimes, when the show is really coming together, we'll come up with something creative. *The Oz*, for example. We don't just play note for note. There are certain sections that require improvisation, blues or funk-driven grooves. There are also parts that are like a traditional score that we follow very closely, but it's unlike most scores in that it does open up room for improvisation. If we were to play *The Oz* exactly as it was intended, it would sound very dated. Instead, I think we made it sound modern and musically relevant to today.

What's the most difficult part about conducting this score?

Coordinating the music with the acting and dialogue so that everything flows smoothly and naturally. It's hard to keep things in sync. It's also been challenging to find the right musical effects that can duplicate the synthesized sounds from the seventies without sounding dated.

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A Wiz Qiz

Are you a "Wiz"?

By Monique Collins

1. What character did Michael Jackson play in the movie version of *The Wiz*?
2. In what year did the movie, *The Wiz*, come out?
3. How is the yellow brick road represented in the movie version of *The Wiz*?
4. In the Broadway musical version of *The Wiz*, Dorothy was played by what actress?
5. How old was Diana Ross when she played Dorothy, in the movie, *The Wiz*?
6. What year was the MGM movie *The Wizard of Oz* released?
7. Who wrote the book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*?
8. What song did Luther Vandross write and compose in the movie version of *The Wiz*?
9. How old was Michael Jackson, when he starred in the movie version of *The Wiz*?
10. What body part did Diana Ross burn, while in production of *The Wiz*?

Answers

1. Scarecrow 2. 1978 3. Yellow taxis 4. Stephanie Mills 5. 33 6. 1939 7. L. Frank Baum 8. "Brand New Day (Everybody Rejoice)" 9. 19 10. Her retinas

Junior Ericka King as a munchkin in *The Wiz*

Horoscopes

By Zordon

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18): Stay out of dark caves this week; you are likely to be eaten by a grue.

Pisces (February 19- March 20): A portal storm is coming your way, so it's time to be strong. Don't let the shape shifting of your body in an alternate dimension get to you.

Aries (March 21 – April 19): Do you need a great way to feel good about yourself? From now on, only compete against small children and the elderly. Are you ready to be a winner?

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): Double entendres are your best friends. They stand erect atop the foundation of language, penetrating right to the throbbing heart of the matter.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21): What's that? You've made it past the Molasses Swamp, and are all the way to the Lollypop Forest? Too bad. Plumpy wants you to go back to start.

Cancer (June 22- July 22): If academic stress ever gets to be too much, consider apathy. It'll help you... or something. Whatever.

Leo (July 23 – August 22): The government is lying to you! Mankind has never landed on the sun!

Virgo (August 23 – September 22): Here comes the Un-Clown! He'll turn that frown inside out!

Libra (September 23 – October 22): Be sure to practice good dental hygiene. In addition to giving you bright smiles and self esteem, it may be the only way to identify you.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21): Smiles don't make very good umbrellas.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21): Beware! Reading horoscopes will curse you with an eternity of bad luck! ... Well, I hope you're never my surgeon.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19): Don't throw this paper away! With a little creativity, thousands of dollars worth of scrap metal, and years of engineering experience, it can become a variety of useful objects – a car for the whole family!

“How do you handle stage fright?”

Compiled by Chelsea Adent and Lizzie Caulder



“Ease on down the road with confidence.”
-**Michael Ancrum**, Senior band major
The Wiz Character: Yellow Brick Road



“I try not to think about what is going on, and do something to distract myself until I go on stage.”
-**Mr. Baker**, Assistant Director of *The Wiz*



“I take a deep breath and focus.”
-**Heather Corson**, Junior vocal major
The Wiz Character: Munchkin, Monkey, Yellow Brick Road



“Right before I go on stage, I shake out all my nerves and take a few deep breaths.”
-**Chaison Dangerfield**, Sophomore theatre major
The Wiz Character: Winkie and Chorus Member



“When I get up in front of everyone, it disappears in the thrill of the moment.”
-**Preston Hogue**, Senior theatre major
The Wiz Character: Chorus Member



“I listen to my iPod and jump around a lot, to let out all of my nerves.”
-**Bailey Gaskin**, Sophomore theatre major
The Wiz Character: Gatekeeper



“I pretend that the audience isn't there.”
-**Lydia Kemmerlin**, Senior band major
The Wiz Character: Evilenne



“I breathe, bend my knees, and relax.”
-**Austin Jur**, Junior theatre major
The Wiz Character: Soldier Messenger



“I close my eyes, breathe, and focus.”
-**Francis Smalls**, Junior vocal major
The Wiz Character: The Wiz



“I hide behind other people when I get out on stage, then when I become more comfortable, I feel fine!”
-**Caroline Tanner**, Sophomore dance major
The Wiz Character: Dance Chorus Member



“I don't look directly at the audience, but behind them, sort of at the lights.”
-**Pepi Rodriguez**, Senior vocal major
The Wiz Character: Crow



“To not have stage fright, all you need to do is rehearse a lot, know your part, and be prepared.”
-**Mr. Youns**
Set Builder for *The Wiz*