

# Applause

Volume 24, Number 7 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC February 2023



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## From the Editors

Dear Readers,

We hope your February has been filled with candy hearts, chocolate-dipped strawberries, and those cute little teddy bears that you find in the front of every department store around this time of the year. Whether or not this is the case, we, along with the rest of the staff, are here to wish you a very happy Valentine's Day, and to bring you a special issue of *Applause*, made with love.

Peter took this month off from most of the layout while he auditioned for music schools around the country, but we enjoyed showing future editors Cate and Riley how to lay out the paper. If you're interested in joining the staff and picking up the torch, sign up for the class when making your schedule for next year!

This month, we are pleased to highlight Black History Month, featuring African American poetry recommendations from SOA students (page 8), an interview with *Outer Banks* actor and SOA Theater Alumnus, Deion Smith (page 34-35), and lots more!

Additionally, SOA's 2022-2023 school-wide production of *The SpongeBob Musical* is on the very near horizon, with shows from February 16th to 19th. Prepare for this spectacular show with lots of behind-the-scenes information, including interviews with the cast (pages 20-21, 28-30), a look at the set design (page 10), as well as some of the history behind the Broadway show (page 33). Make sure to buy your tickets if you haven't already; it is a show that you definitely don't want to miss!

Your Editors,  
Peter O'Malley, Lauren Holladay, and Giovanni Cusatis

*Peter O'Malley* *Lauren Holladay* *Giovanni Cusatis*

## SOA Calendar

by Cate Traywick

**Feb 16th:** *SpongeBob* - 6:30-9:30, RMMT

**Feb 17th:** Early Release

**Feb 17th:** *SpongeBob* - 6:30-9:30, RMMT

**Feb 17th:** 6th Grade Valentines Day Dance - 1:30-3:30

**Feb 18th:** *SpongeBob* - 6:30-9:30, RMMT

**Feb 19th:** *SpongeBob* - 3:00-5:30, RMMT

**Feb 20th:** Presidents Day (Schools Closed)

**Feb 25th:** Vocal National Choir

**Feb 28th:** High School Jazz Chamber Concert - 6:30, RMMT

**Mar 2nd:** "I Want my MTV," 6:30, Black Box

**Mar 2nd& 3rd:** Classical Piano Concert - 6-7:30, RMMT

**Mar 6th:** Dance Senior Thesis Adjudications 2 - 4:00-5:30, RMMT

**Mar 7th:** Band Pre-CPA Concert - 6:30-8:00, RMMT



# Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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**Editors-In-Chief:**

Peter O'Malley,  
Lauren Holladay

**Junior Editors:**

Riley Borkowski,  
Cate Traywick

**Assistant Editor:**

Giovanni Cusatis

**Copy Editor:**

Beatrice Criscuolo

**Business Manager:**

Giselle Rattelade

**Photographers:**

Beatrice Criscuolo, Lauren Holladay, Catherine Traywick

**Staff Writers:**

Riley Borkowski  
Beatrice Criscuolo  
Giovanni Cusatis  
Anna Garziera  
Eliana Gross  
Isis Hanna

Kenya Hines  
Lauren Holladay  
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John Cusatis, Ph.D., Adviser  
Charleston County School of the Arts  
5109-B West Enterprise St.  
North Charleston, SC 29405

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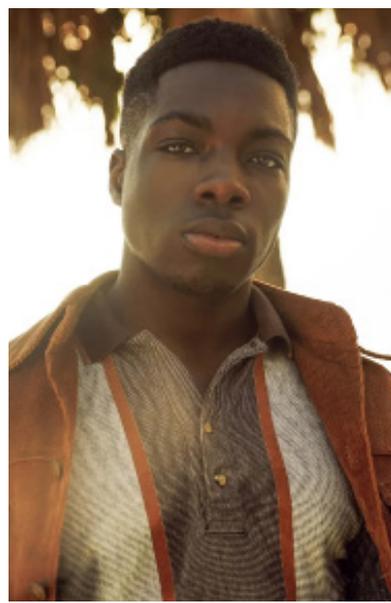
**Cover by Aryana Chinn**



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## In This Issue

### SOA Students Perform in Annual "Dancing With The Teachers" Event

by Cate Traywick

### Former SOA Teacher Wins Second Grammy Award

by Anna Garziera

### Where Are They Now: Deion Smith

by Giovanni Cusatis

## Sass Attack: Awards Season

"Sass Attack" was started in 2007 by Applause writer **David Sass** and has been an Applause column for fourteen years. Our senior Fashion major, **Beatrice Criscuolo**, has decided to continue the tradition.

It's awards season! You know what that means: time to remember about the Oscars and Emmys the night before and then not watch them. Add in a repost of your favorite outfit the next day, and you're set. However, watching the entire show is entertaining, especially with the possibility of a repeat of the Will Smith/Chris Rock slap heard 'round the world.

Even if you don't watch the Grammys or the Oscars live, it is always worth it to check out what all the celebrities wore the next day. These few months are a rollercoaster of emotions as I look through the celebrity outfits: from horrified to dazzled to just plain uninspired.

What makes me particularly annoyed is those who don't dress for the occasion. I mean, you're at the Grammys and you didn't dress up! Correct me if I'm wrong, but overalls and the red carpet don't mix. Not to mention you spent thousands of dollars on an outfit that a) you're only going to wear once, and b) isn't flattering, doesn't fit well, or any other of the numerous reasons I cringed when I saw the picture.

I know celebrities are all about name brands, but more Valentino, Prada, or Versace dresses are not what the world needs right now. Why not support a burgeoning designer that is working to help marginalized communities or support eco friendly manufacturing techniques?

That being said, some of the fashion statements on the red carpet are truly amazing. If you're anything like me, thirty minutes spent looking at such beautiful clothing is thirty minutes well spent - and you've got multiple chances this spring to get inspired - from the Emmys to the Oscars to the Golden Globes.

## Opinion: New Chromebooks

by Eliana Gross

As always, I've got some opinions, but as a disclaimer, I do not use my Chromebook. Chromebooks have their fair share of faults and strengths, more faults than strengths really, but they have a worse reputation than they deserve. They're a pain to work with, but they get the job done. My problem is not the new Chromebooks, but their cases.

Why do they look like that? I understand that they're probably drop-proof or something, but come on. To me, they look like The iPad Kid's iPad case. You know the one. They're not awful, but as an art school, is this what we represent? A Chromebook Ziploc bag with bumpers on the sides? I'm aware that they are provided by the district, but if we all just took what we were handed and made do without thinking to improve or innovate, where would we be? We'd still be living in caves, not even using spears, just banging rocks together. Just eating poisonous mushrooms and dying because we sneezed too hard. We're better than that.

I have no solution for this new daily attack on my eyes, but that's not my job as an observer. I'm just putting it out there as food for thought. If Upton Sinclair had never written *The Jungle*, we'd still be eating meat that we can only hope isn't contaminated with deadly bacteria, and I am the Upton Sinclair of SOA. To Charleston County, please try again, and to its students, get a temporary sticker or something. Get creative. After all, that's what we're best at here at Charleston County School of the Arts. Go Pegasi!



Beatrice Criscuolo

Provided

## Opinion: Why Do People Hate Valentine's Day So Much?

by Gracie Pennington

Valentine's Day is perhaps the most hated holiday, and up until recently, I have never understood why. It's a joyous day for couples to get each other gifts and celebrate. It isn't just restricted to couples though; you can get your friends and families gifts too! It's a holiday to celebrate love of all kinds... so why is it so hated by the general public.

Perhaps the most obvious answer to the question at hand is the loneliness that single people may experience on the holiday. Seeing happy couples all around can make one feel isolated and lonely. They might also feel as if it's overrated; the overexaggerated grandeur of some people's displays of affection can support this feeling (which I honestly understand- why would anybody need a seven foot tall teddy bear from Costco?).

However, nobody really thinks about how couples may feel on the 14th. Even though it's supposed to be a warm celebration of love, some couples may find it obligatory or stressful to celebrate such a holiday. They may worry that their gift isn't good enough for their partner, and afraid of disappointing, they go all out with the flowers, candy, and sweet nothings. This overwhelming pressure is perpetuated by obligatory consumerism, which further manifests into an amalgamated mess of pink frills, sparkles, hearts, and anxiety. All of this erases the true meaning of Valentine's Day: humbly showing your love and appreciation for your significant other, friends, and family.

This Valentine's Day, instead of stressing out over a big show of affection, simply tell your friends, family, and partner (if you have one) how much they mean to you. You could write them a heartfelt note (because letters are so much more heartfelt and meaningful than DMs), or even make a handmade gift. Whatever you decide to give, and however you decide to celebrate, do so with genuine intention. A true friend or lover will not see you for the gifts you buy, but rather for your kindness and humility.



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Gracie Pennington



Eliana Gross

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## This Month Among the Stars

by Yatawee Petchsuriya

### February 16th: Saturn at Solar Conjunction

Saturn and the Sun pass closest to each other. In the sky-dome, which describes the perspective of the observer on Earth looking into the sky, the sun may block out the planet.

### February 18th: Moon at Perihelion

Perihelion stems from the Greek word “peri,” which means close or near, and helios, which means the sun. The moon at perihelion describes the phase in its orbit that it is closest to the sun, being 1.0153 astronomical units (AU), translating to approximately ninety-three million miles.

### February 19th: Moon at Perigee

As the new moon or full moon phase occurs next to its perigee, the moon approaches its closest distance from Earth, causing it to appear larger in the sky. If a lunar perigee and a full moon happens at the same time, it results in a Super Moon.

### February 20th: New Moon

A new moon is caused when it moves between the sun and Earth. This configuration is also known as a syzygy, which occurs every full and new moon. A syzygy defines an approximately straight alignment of at least three celestial bodies.

### February 27th: Lunar Eclipse of Mars

The moon passes in front of Mars, meaning the planet is occulted. However, the event will not be visible in the sky. In general, the position of the moon in the sky largely differs depending on where the observer is on the planet. As a result, lunar events can only be viewed from specific places

### February 27th: Conjunction of Moon and Mars

The Moon and Mars at this time of the year will pass the point in which they are nearest to each other and will appear close in the sky. With the naked eye, Mars can be seen right next to the moon during this time in the night sky.



Conjunction of the Moon and Mars.

mars.nasa.gov

### March 15th: Normid Meteor Shower

Meteor showers originate from debris of comets and asteroids. The shower's radiant point is the constellation of Norma, meaning that the meteoroids will look as if they arose from the location.

## SOA Athletes Conclude Successful Fall Season

by Giovanni Cusatis

As spring athletes are breaking in their gloves, buying new running shoes, and rebuilding their stamina, basketball players and wrestlers are competing in their final games of the season.

In the inaugural season of Bonds Wilson Campus combined sports, many winter athletes shined on the court and the mats. Dylan Sweeney, Andrew Russell, and Tyler Nelson all had successful seasons on Magnet's JV basketball team, who ended the season with a winning record. Nadia Fox and Madison Logan also had good seasons on the Female Raptors JV basketball team.

On the wrestling mat, James Herring,



Senior Ben Fancher with his rafter on Senior Night

Provided

Justin Gilliard, Nick Severance, Ayden Caffarel, and Ben Fancher all had good rookie seasons. Nick Severance, who ended the season with a very high win rate explains that “the coaches and more experienced teammates were very good at helping us get our technique down.” They all remarked highly on the season and being a part of the Magnet team.

Many spring athletes are starting practices and scrimmages. Keep an eye out for news about how their seasons are going in the upcoming issues.

### Curious about the value of your old coins or currency?



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## SOA Students Participate in “Dancing With The Teachers”

Photos by Cate Traywick

On February 1st, 2023, students performed in SOA’s annual “Dancing With The Teachers” event. Ten groups of students, each working with one of their favorite SOA teachers or administrators, carefully choreographed, planned, and designed their dances and costumes. Audience members had the opportunity to vote for their favorite dance with a one dollar donation, and the winners were announced at the end of the night. Congratulations to Mr. Rieder’s group, “Revenge on Rieder”!



# AP Literature Students Recommend Their Favorite Contemporary African American Poets

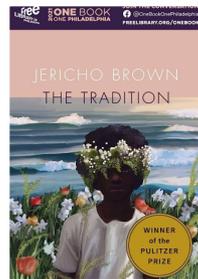
Students in Dr. Cusatis's 3B AP Literature class recently chose a contemporary poet to study for nine weeks, whose work they introduced to their classmates. Among their choices were these highly recommended African American poets. Why not check them out? Many of their poems can be found online.

## Jericho Brown

### Recommended by Evan Baker

Jericho Brown is a powerful contemporary poet whose inventive language, vulnerability, and passion have won him many accolades, including the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for his collection *The Tradition*. Throughout his work, Brown uses well-crafted metaphors and sharp diction and syntax to express themes regarding race, sexuality, and family. Brown provides a straightforward yet complex portrayal of Black life in America.

**Recommended Poems:** "Bullet Points," "The Tradition," and "Dark" from *The Tradition* (2019).



Jericho Brown



Evan Baker

Emory.edu

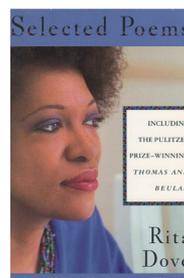
Giovanni Cusatis

## Rita Dove

### Recommended by Tulah Cramer

Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove writes stunning poetry that is just as accessible as it is rewarding to read. She treats a wide range of subject matter but often writes about childhood memories, the arts, African American history, deep societal problems, and race. Whether her poems are autobiographical or tell someone else's story, Dove uses vivid imagery and metaphors to transport and welcome you into the beautiful world of her poems.

**Recommended poems:** "Flash Cards," "Grape Sherbet," and "Teach Us to Number Our Days" from *Collected Poems: 1974-2004* (2016).



Rita Dove



Tulah Cramer

Virginia.edu

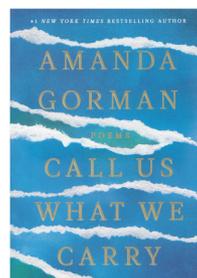
Giovanni Cusatis

## Amanda Gorman

### Recommended by Tyler Bas

The 2021 U.S. Presidential Inaugural Poet, Amanda Gorman, explores both current events and U.S. history, offering original insights on issues such as the Covid pandemic and racial injustice. Her style is innovative and refreshing. For example, "At First," which takes a look at how people communicated at the start of the pandemic, is laid out in text messages. The rich, evocative language of "The Hill We Climb," written for President Biden's inauguration, garnered her immediate international attention.

**Recommended Poems:** "At First" and "The Hill We Climb" from *Call Us What We Carry* (2021).



Amanda Gorman



Tyler Bas

Harper's BAZAAR

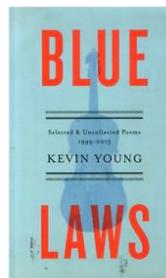
Giovanni Cusatis

## Kevin Young

### Recommended by Meredith Hungerford

Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and poetry editor of *The New Yorker*, Kevin Young explores African American culture, being Black in America, and critically analyzes the treatment and perception of Black Americans. He also dives into the emotions and experience of grief after losing his father. His poems often follow a bluesy melody, with worlds flowing and jiving in tandem with one another through the use of enjambment and shorter stanzas. Young is not afraid to phrase things the way that they are; his words offer a very blunt depiction of reality as he experiences it.

**Recommended Poems:** "Pieta" and "Negative" from *Blue Laws* (2016).



Kevin Young



Meredith Hungerford

Poetry Society of America

Giovanni Cusatis

# “Who is your favorite Black artist?”

Applause reporters asked students of each arts department and teachers at SOA about their favorite Black artist in their field.



“Xavier Foley, because he teaches Devin O’Brien on Insta Live. I’m a big fan of his bass videos on social media, too.”

Alex Lim, 10th grade Strings



“Wynton Marsalis, because he’s a trumpeter and plays all sorts of music, primarily jazz.”

Nick Severance, 10th grade Band



“Thelonious Monk is probably my biggest inspiration in piano. His improvisation skills, compositions, and unique style is inspirational.”

Mary Grace Leatherbury, 11th grade Piano



“I would say Josephine Baker because she refused to perform for segregated audiences and she redefined the image of Black performers, which helped Black entertainers come to be recognized as artists.”

Ashlyn Cromwell, 10th grade Dance



“The Black fashion designer that inspires me is Sergio Hudson. I love how his ready-to-wear outfits have a formal, elegant look.”

Macie Hoffman, 11th grade Fashion



“Albert Namatjira. I love his art style with watercolors, and I love his piece *Ghost Gum and Central Australian Landscape*.”

Evelyn Bueschgen, 12th grade Visual Arts



“N. K. Jemisin. Her world building is incredible, and her prose is captivating. My favorite work is *The Fifth Season*.”

Merrick Moriarty, 11th grade Creative Writing



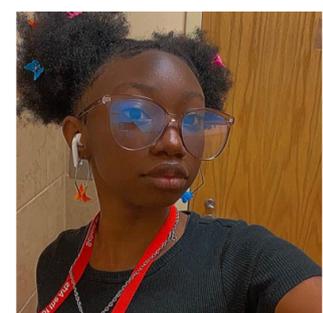
“Chadwick Boseman. *Black Panther* is one of my favorite movies.”

Ronan Fox, 6th grade Theater



“Shaheem Sanchez, because he shows that the deaf can do anything. We can be singers, we can be dancers, and it doesn’t have to be any one thing. Deafness will not stop us; we’ll do what we can.”

Alfonso “AJ” White, 12th grade ASL & Deaf Culture



“Tupac Shakur, because he was an inspiration and influence to many people because of the honesty and courage he put into his songs and his actions.”

Cici Whitfield, 10th grade Vocal



“Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, and I love her piece *Deep Water*”

Ms. Sullivan, Middle School Social Studies Teacher



“Toni Morrison, because she has impacted me in numerous ways at different points in my life.”

Mr. Martin, High School English Teacher



“August Wilson, because he wrote the single greatest character in all of history, Troy Maxson, from *Fences*.”

Mr. Hammes, Creative Writing Teacher



“Jonathan Green. I love the positivity in the scenes from his grandmother’s childhood. He makes mundane chores look exciting.”

Ms. Richardson, High School Visual Arts Teacher

## Visual Artists Paint Sets for *The SpongeBob Musical*

Photos by Kayla Herrman

Many days after school and on the weekend, middle school Visual Art teacher Mr. Colie organized SOA Visual Arts majors to assist in the painting of sets for *The SpongeBob Musical*. Students had the opportunity to paint the floor of the stage, a large backdrop, as well as many props for the show. To see their colorful creations in action, be sure to attend SOA's school musical this year, from February 16th to February 19th.



## SOA Strings Students Enjoy Annual Oyster Roast Event

Photos by Anna Garziera

On January 22nd, 2023, Strings majors celebrated a successful start of the year at their yearly oyster roast, hosted on Bowens Island.





*Applause* staff members assist with Lowcountry Foodbank drive run by **Lauren Holladay**. (Left to right) **Lauren Holladay**, **Riley Borkowski**, **Giselle Rattelade**, and **Eliana Gross**.



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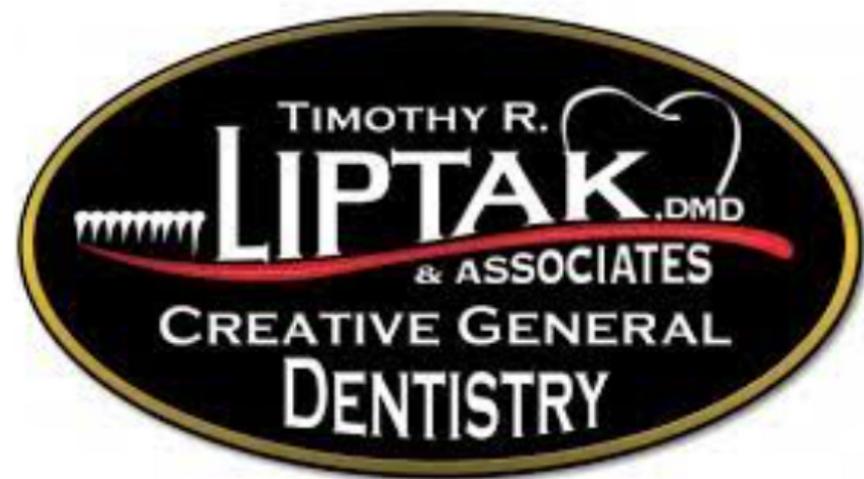
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## SOA Vocal Students Perform Class of 2023 Senior Theses

photos by Tim Fennell

On January 23rd and 24th, senior Vocal majors performed their Senior Theses in the Rose Maree Myers Theater. To see videos of their incredible performances, visit Tim Fennell's YouTube channel, @timfennell645.



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## **Congratulations to all of the 2022-2023 Scholastic Art and Writing Award Winners!**

### **Visual Arts**

Peyton Adams-Smies: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Ella Bailey: 1 Honorable Mention  
 William Balderose: 1 Silver Key  
 Michelle Barrios: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Julia Boyer: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Eliza Bradham: 1 Silver Key  
 Margeaux Burkhardt: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Ella Campbell: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Fenya Connor: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Amelia Counts: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
 Tulah Cramer: 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys  
 Lucy Cromwell: 1 Gold Key  
 James Davenport: 1 Gold Key  
 Ava Dawson: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Susan Dong: 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
 Madison Edwards: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key  
 Charlotte Gibbes: 1 Silver Key  
 Carson Godwin: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Giselle Gonzales: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
 Eliana Gross: 1 Gold Key  
 Victoria Hickerson: 1 Silver Key, 2 Gold Keys  
 Lauren Holladay: 1 Silver Key

Neo James: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Ariana Lane: 1 Silver Key  
 Braeden LaRoche: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
 Grace Nelson: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
 Isabelle Oldal: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Jolin Pan: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Saige Patterson: 1 Silver Key  
 Lilly Ratcliffe: 1 Gold Key  
 Azaria Richardson: 1 Silver Key  
 Kyra Semler: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Oliver Senecal: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Connelly Sexton: 2 Silver Keys  
 Abigail Short: 4 Honorable Mentions, 2 Silver Keys, 3 Gold Keys, 1 American Visions Nomination  
 Sophia Stadalsky: 1 Silver Key  
 Whitney Werking: 2 Silver Keys, 2 Gold Keys  
 Sarah Harper Whittington: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Reanna Wolf: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Ashley Yax Apolinar: 1 Silver Key  
 Jessica Yu: 1 Honorable Mention

### **Creative Writing**

R. A. J. Anderson: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key, 4 Gold Keys, 2 American Voice Nominations  
 Elle Baker: 2 Gold Keys, 1 American Voice Nomination  
 Ollie Brice: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Madyson Brown: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
 Niamh Carmichael: 4 Silver Keys

Elle Cooper: 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key  
 Bella Cosentino: 1 Silver Key  
 Kayla Diaz-Janes: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
 Eliza Eckert: 1 Honorable Mention, 3 Silver Keys, 2 Gold Keys  
 James Fauerbach: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
 Samuel Foppe: 1 Silver Key  
 Ella Fritz: 2 Honorable Mentions, 4 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key  
 Linda Garziera: 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
 Nora Green: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
 Timothy Griffin: 1 Gold Key  
 Isis Hanna: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key  
 Harper Hayes: 1 Silver Key  
 Lillian Hughes: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
 Karina Ivanova: 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Gold Keys  
 Lily Jensen: 3 Honorable Mentions  
 Chloe Johnson: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Zoe Jones: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
 Katherine Largent: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Gold Key  
 Sydney Lee: 3 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key  
 Jessie Leitzel: 4 Honorable Mentions, 4 Silver Keys, 5 Gold Keys  
 Jack Lindsay: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Reegan Magee: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
 Brooklyn Mayberry: 1 Silver Key

Madison McDonald: 1 Silver Key  
 Sophia Milner: 2 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key, 1 American Voices Nomination  
 Lorelai Morgane: 4 Honorable Mentions, 1 Gold Key  
 Merrick Moriarty: 3 Honorable Mentions, 3 Silver Keys  
 Aidan Penna: 1 Honorable Mention, 3 Silver Keys  
 Avem Polon: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Acadia Reynolds: 2 Honorable Mentions, 2 Silver Keys, 2 Gold Keys  
 Lowery Rissmiller: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key  
 Alyvia Ross: 1 Honorable Mention  
 William Ross: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
 Janette Salazar Velasquez: 1 Honorable Mention  
 Emily Shelor: 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key, 2 Gold Keys  
 Maren Spangler: 1 Silver Key  
 Olivia Stone: 3 Honorable Mentions  
 Yashika Zoey Trumata: 1 Silver Key  
 Sophie Turansky: 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key  
 Ruby Varallo: 1 Silver Key  
 Anne Wilson Varnado: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
 Violet Wall: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
 Aiden Withers: 1 Silver Key

### **Journalism**

Anna Garziera: 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key

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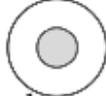
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## Sign of the Month: “Happy Valentine’s Day!”

by Ariana Lane

Demonstrated by Marquis Larry  
10th grade ASL & Deaf Culture



1. To begin, bring both of your hands to your chest, palms facing you.
2. Move both of your hands back and forth away from your body in a circular movement.
3. For the second part of the sign, put both hands in front of your chest with your palm facing you. Leave all of your fingers out, but bend both middle fingers to touch your chest.
4. While maintaining this position with both hands, draw a heart with the fingers touching your chest.
5. Finally, bring your non-dominant hand beside your shoulder and point upwards using your index finger, with your palm facing you. Rest your nondominant hand at your elbow, with your arm crossing in front of your chest.
6. Let your non-dominant hand drop across your chest until your pointer finger touches your other elbow.



IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

**LOVE IS LOVE**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**

**NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL**

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**ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD**



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Based on the series by Stephen Hillenburg

**February 16-19, 2023**

**Rose Maree Myers Theater**

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**And Songs by**

David Bowie, Tom Kenny & Andy Paley

**Book by**

Kyle Jarrow

**Additional Lyrics by**  
Jonathan Coulton

**Additional Music by**  
Tom Kitt

Musical Production Conceived by Tina Landau

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## 2023 AP Exam Schedule

Students! AP Exams are approaching. Find your exam date and time below. Good luck!

### Week 1

#### Monday, May 1, 2023

United States Government and Politics, 8 AM  
Chemistry, 12 PM  
Spanish Literature and Culture, 12 PM

#### Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Chinese Language and Culture, 8 AM  
Environmental Science, 8 AM  
Psychology, 12 PM

#### Wednesday, May 3, 2023

English Literature and Composition, 8 AM  
Comparative Government and Politics, 12 PM  
Computer Science A, 12 PM

#### Thursday, May 4, 2023

Human Geography, 8 AM  
Macroeconomics, 8 AM  
Seminar, 12 PM  
Statistics, 12 PM

#### Friday, May 5, 2023

European History, 8 AM  
United States History, 8 AM  
Art History, 12 PM  
Microeconomics 12 PM  
Art and Design (digital portfolio submission deadline), 8 PM

### Week 2

#### Monday, May 8, 2023

Calculus AB, 8 AM  
Calculus BC, 8 AM  
Computer Science Principles, 12 PM  
Italian Language and Culture, 12 PM

#### Tuesday, May 9, 2023

English Language and Composition, 8 AM  
Japanese Language and Culture, 8 AM  
Physics C: Mechanics, 12 PM  
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, 2 PM

#### Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Spanish Language and Culture, 8 AM  
Biology, 12 PM

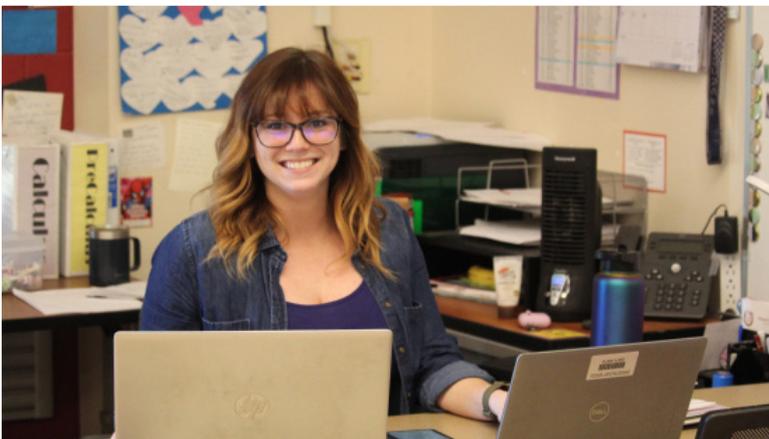
#### Thursday, May 11, 2023

French Language and Culture, 8 AM  
World History: Modern, 8 AM  
Physics 1: Algebra-Based, 12 PM

#### Friday, May 12, 2023

German Language and Culture, 8 AM  
Music Theory, 8 AM  
Latin, 12 PM  
Physics 2: Algebra-Based, 12 PM

### Congratulations Ms. Shannon Whittemore, SOA 2022-23 Teacher of the Year!



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## Applause Meets the Cast of *The SpongeBob Musical*

Applause reporters sat down with the main cast members from the SOA Production of *The SpongeBob Musical*.

### Tai'La Wilson, *SpongeBob*

by Peter O'Malley

**Peter O'Malley:** You play the lead role for *The SpongeBob Musical*. What was the audition process like, and how did you react to hearing you'd play *SpongeBob*?

**Tai'La Wilson:** Well first off, I didn't even audition for the role of *SpongeBob*. In fact, I didn't even get a *callback* for

*SpongeBob*. It caught me (and literally everyone else) by complete surprise when Mr. Pickens sent out those emails that Saturday. The audition process was simple but very anxiety inducing. I love Mr. Pickens, but seeing him behind that table *literally* judging me is terrifying. Regardless of what I did or did not audition for, I was screaming and jumping for joy when I found out I got *SpongeBob*.

**PO:** Do you have a way of channeling the character of *SpongeBob* in rehearsals? How did you study his character once you were given the role? Can you do the laugh?

**TW:** In rehearsal, I find that simply being happy and silly is all you need to channel *SpongeBob*, which isn't a difficult task since I'm constantly surrounded by my ridiculously hilarious cast-mates. When you find joy, *SpongeBob* is right around the corner. Now, when it comes to studying *SpongeBob* there's not much "studying" involved. I literally just binge watched the first five seasons of the show (which is something I did before I was given the role anyway). And yes, I can do the laugh. My cast-mates force me to do it when they need a good chuckle.

**PO:** Is *SpongeBob's* personality at all reflective of yours?

**TW:** Oh yeah, me and *Sponge* are practically the same person. He's such a goofy character, anyone can find themselves in *SpongeBob*, honestly. I think what's so important about *SpongeBob* is that he has that kiddy personality that *everyone* has deep down inside of them but is too afraid to let show. So I'm glad *SpongeBob* gives me an excuse to act like a goof without judgment.



Tai'La Wilson

**PO:** *SpongeBob* was a big part of many of our childhoods. Did you watch *SpongeBob* as a kid? What were your favorite aspects of the show?

**TW:** *SpongeBob* was all I watched as a kid! I have vivid memories of waking up in 2010 on a Saturday morning, turning on the TV, and watching *SpongeBob* while I ate my breakfast. I've watched it all. If you gave me a random episode, I'd be able to give you an explanation of the plot in full detail. Not ashamed either. One thing I loved about the show was that it's comedy gold! It's not as funny now that I'm older, but it's still nostalgic to watch regardless.

**PO:** Who is your favorite character in *SpongeBob*?

**TW:** My favorite character by far is Sandy. From her attitude to her thick Texas accent, what could you not love about her? Meredith Layne does an amazing job channeling Sandy's kick-butt energy, and I can't wait for everyone to see!!

**PO:** What's your favorite song in the show?

**TW:** "Super Sea Star Savior" is by far my favorite song from the show. I can't tell you why though, you'll just have to come see for yourself!

### Devon Brunson, Patrick Star

by Giovanni Cusatis

**Giovanni Cusatis:** How have you approached your role as Patrick?

**Devon Brunson:** I've been trying to really lean into the fun qualities of the character and not take myself too seriously. Of course, I am putting in a ton of work to perform the music perfectly and put on the best show the best I can, but I think to create a genuine performance of a guy like Patrick you have to be willing to do things with a little bit less head and a little bit more heart.

**GC:** What has it been like going from playing *The Phantom of the Opera* to playing Patrick Star?

**DB:** The characters basically couldn't be more different. *Phantom* is a devious, emotionally-unstable maniac, and Patrick is a big lovable idiot. The best analogy I can think of is it feels like going from trying to fight a bull to trying to fight a ... much less coordinated bull. They're both a wild ride, but I get to laugh during this one a little more.

**GC:** What is your favorite song in the show?

**DB:** Well, "Super Sea Star Savior" has to be my



Devon Brunson

favorite. What's not to love, you know? Justin Feaster on some killer gospel harmonies, a ginormous cake, and a tambourine dance break, it's an absolute masterpiece.

**GC:** Did you watch much *SpongeBob* growing up? If not, did you watch any in preparation for the role?

**DB:** This is a controversial topic, but I have yet to see an episode of *SpongeBob*. For some reason, *PBS* was typically more my style as a kid. I have seen enough clips of the cartoon to get myself into character, but I'm trying to put my own spin on it.

**GC:** What are you most excited for in the show?

**DB:** Probably getting to do some wildly out-of-control riffing at the end of "Super Sea Star Savior," or the incredible stretching sofa.

**GC:** Is Mayonnaise an instrument?

**DB:** Contrary to what a clarinet-playing squid may tell you, I don't see any reason why mayonnaise shouldn't be an instrument. Whether or not it WILL be an instrument, I can neither confirm nor deny.

### Tyler Caplea, Squidward

by Lauren Holladay

**Lauren Holladay:** What is your favorite part about playing Squidward?

**Tyler Caplea:** I love how ridiculous of a character he is. It has been a lot of fun playing with his voice and physicality to try and squeeze as much humor out of the lines as I can.

**LH:** What is your experience with musical theater in the past, and how has this show compared to your past performances?

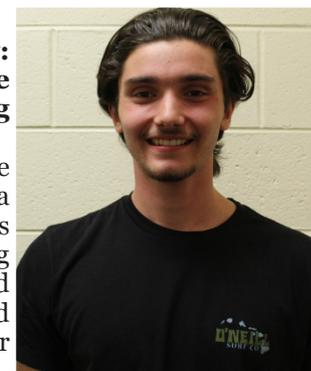
**TC:** I have been doing musical theater for over eight years now, and this show is definitely one of the most fun shows I have ever been in. I haven't done a lot of ridiculous character acting, so I have really enjoyed getting to be a part of *The SpongeBob Musical*.

**LH:** Do you have a favorite song or scene from the musical? What is it and why is it your favorite?

**TC:** My favorite song is definitely "Super Sea Star Savior" because it is so powerful and it really gets the audience and the performers excited about the show.

**LH:** Do you feel that you relate to Squidward? Is there anything that you do to get into character before going on stage?

**TC:** I definitely get where Squidward is coming from because sometimes people can just be way too much and all you want to do is sit at home and do absolutely nothing. Before I go onstage, I like to get in the mindset of hating everything and everyone,



Tyler Caplea

Isis Hanna

Isis Hanna

Isis Hanna

which isn't usually too hard.

**LH: What have you and the other cast members done to prepare for the show, and what has been the biggest challenge so far?**

**TC:** We have had after school rehearsals almost every day since the beginning of January, and we have had to practice even more at home. I think the biggest challenge has been separating what we do on stage from the TV show since we want our performance to be exciting and original.

**LH: What advice would you give to students aspiring to perform in future SOA musicals?**

**TC:** The biggest thing is to just make the commitment to auditioning and be ready to have an amazing time. No matter what part you have, you will love being around an awesome group of people who are all working together to create an incredible show.

## Judith Hamrick, Karen the Computer

by Eliana Gross

**Eliana Gross: Have you always felt a personal connection to computers? Do you relate to them on a spiritual level?**

**Judith Hamrick:** I don't think I've ever felt a connection to any computer...ever. In fact, they tend to be my mortal enemy on most days. I like to believe I hold a little more emotional depth than a box of wires, buttons, and electricity.

**EG: Who is your favorite *SpongeBob* character? Why?**

**JH:** My favorite *SpongeBob* character has always been a tie between Squidward and Barnacle Boy. I've always appreciated their general cynicism and the way they juxtapose their partners in crime's sunny disposition.

**EG: What are some similarities, if any, between you and your character, Karen the Computer?**

**JH:** I think Karen and I share one quality that could be considered both our fatal flaw and our greatest strength: brutal honesty. She spends most of her time checking Plankton's ego and putting him in his place, and I love that for her. Unfortunately, I don't share her infinite knowledge and personal WiFi router.

**EG: What's your favorite part about playing Karen?**

**JH:** My favorite part about playing Karen is being able to play around with her plethora of skills and explore her many humanoid emotions. I've never gotten the chance to play a love interest or a villain and she's given me the opportunity to do both! I



Judith Hamrick

loved finding her voice and getting to work with my cast-mates on individual relationships, because for so long we've only ever known her to interact with her husband. She's a queen, and I'm honored to get to roll around on her wheels for a while.

**EG: In your professional opinion, why do you think Plankton and Karen work as business partners if they're so different?**

**JH:** I think Plankton and Karen work so well as business partners (and romantic partners) because of the classic idea that opposites attract. They keep each other in check and their minds (or motherboards) work in different ways: Karen is factual and realistic, while Plankton is creative and idealistic. They fit like puzzle pieces, through thick and thin.

**EG: If Karen was an SOA student, what do you think her major would be? Why?**

**JH:** Karen would 100% be a band major. She plays a mean glockenspiel.

## Meredith Layne Hungerford, Sandy Cheeks

by Isis Hanna

**Isis Hanna: What inspired you to audition for the character of Sandy? Would you say you share any of her personality traits?**

**Meredith Layne Hungerford:** First and foremost... I love doing a country accent, I can't lie. But I also love her character as a whole. I think the thing that most attracted me to her was her strong demeanor and big belty notes. It's also pretty fun to get to do an awesome karate duet with the lovely Tai'la as *SpongeBob*. I think both Sandy and I are strong headed and like minded people. Never give up, even when the going gets tough.

**IH: Earlier this year, you played Carlotta in *Phantom of the Opera*, a very different character than Sandy. How do you approach each of the roles you play? Is there anything specific that you do to get into character before a show?**

**MH:** Because so many of the roles that I play are completely different from one another, I have to examine their own personalities more carefully. I always like to bring a little bit of myself into the character, but sticking to the material is most important. I can't say that I do anything specific because as soon as I walk on, I'm in character mode.

**IH: What was it like to go straight from being in *Phantom* to *SpongeBob*? Is it tiring to**



Meredith Layne Hungerford

**constantly be performing?**

**MH:** Both musicals have been extremely fast-paced; I can't say it's not tiring also in the midst of school and college applications. However, performing brings me the most joy in my life and I could never get tired of it. I may complain every once in a while, but there's nothing I'd rather be doing.

**IH: Who or what inspires your performances the most?**

**MH:** I would say the cartoon character actually inspires my performance of Sandy the most. *The SpongeBob Musical* is a lot like the show, so it's easiest to take my inspiration from there.

**IH: Is this the final role you will play in an SOA production? How do you feel about that?**

**MH:** Sadly, yes. Over the last few years here at SOA, I have had the privilege of being in four incredible productions, even in the midst of COVID in my sophomore and junior years. I am sad that I will have to leave my amazingly talented peers from high school and start a new chapter elsewhere. SOA has provided me with some awesome opportunities to perform and it has been a great experience.

**IH: Do you have any plans to pursue musical theater after high school?**

**MH:** Yes! My entire third quarter has been spent up in New York for college auditions as I prepare to major in musical theatre for college. I hope to continue pursuing this as a career for as long as I can and hopefully really succeed. Musical theatre has always been the one thing that I can count on and being able to pursue this dream means so much to me.

## Ramere Kelly, Plankton

by Manny Stavrinakis

**Manny Stavrinakis: Did you watch *SpongeBob* growing up as a child?**

**Ramere Kelly:** Yes I watched a lot of *SpongeBob*.

**MS: Does the character of Plankton show any resemblance to yourself?**

**RK:** I think Plankton does resemble me a little bit in a unique way. He's different from everyone else, but I'm not an evil genius like he is.

**MS: What preparations have you done to play the role of Plankton?**

**RK:** I have watched some compilations of Plankton moments from *SpongeBob* to get the voice I want to use and some of his mannerisms.

**MS: With whom do you love working with the most in this play?**



Ramere Kelly

## Cody Newman



Cody,  
You are the brightest  
star in all the  
heavens. We are so  
proud of you.  
“Peace Out A Train.”

Love,  
The People You Live  
With.

## Sam Owens



Congratulations to our high-flying  
Pirate! We are so proud of you, Sam!

Mom, Dad, and Jake

## Amelia McCreary



Amelia,

You were destined  
to act in *SpongeBob*!  
We're so proud of  
you and all of your  
hard work.

Love you loads,  
Mom and Dad



## Zion Platt

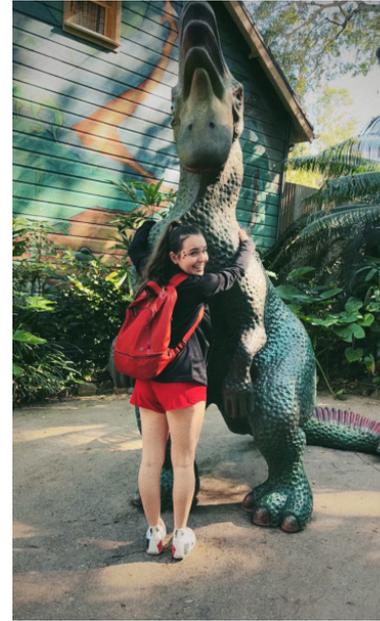


Congratulations,  
Zion!

You make us so  
proud, and we  
want you to keep  
grinding and go  
after your dreams.

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Jay, &  
Dina

## Ella Schrecker



Congratulations,  
Ella!

Your hard work  
always pays off.  
Keep being  
awesome!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, and  
Charlie

## Jesse Price



We are proud of  
all you've  
accomplished.

You are a great  
student, an  
impressive  
actor, and a loyal  
friend.

Keep up the good  
work!

## Morgan Schatmeyer



“Stop it, you’re  
embarrassing  
me!”

- Pearl Krabs

Love,  
Mom, Jake, &  
Dad

### Ella Campbell



We are so proud of you, Ella!  
We can't wait to see the show!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Millie, and Jack

### Liv Dewhirst



Liv,  
Have a wonderful  
time and shine  
bright!

We love you!  
Mom, Dad, and Joy

### Matthew DiPalma



Best of luck in the show, Matthew!!!

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Jay, & Dina

### Jordyn Goodman



Jordyn, you have always been a star,  
keep shining!! Break a leg!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Drew

### Emilia Hall



Keep shining your  
bright light!  
We are so proud of  
you!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, &  
Landon

### Judith Hamrick



Bravo, Judith!  
We are so incredibly  
proud of you for  
following your dreams  
and will always remain  
your  
biggest fans!

Congratulations to  
you and the entire  
*SpongeBob* cast and  
crew!

We love you to infinity  
and beyond!

Mom and Dad

### Meredith Layne Hungerford



Bravo, Sandy Cheeks! Your performances fill us  
with such joy and pride! Congratulations to you,  
your talented cast mates, and dedicated teachers!

Love, Your Inner Circle

### Alex LaPlante



Alex,  
We are so proud of all  
your hard work and  
determination!!

Keep reaching for the  
stars and never forget to  
keep smiling.  
We love you!!

Love,  
Mom and Dad

**Sadie Scozzaro**

Congratulations,  
Sadie!

We are so very  
proud of you and  
all of the amazing  
things you do!

Love you,  
Mom, Dad, Luke,  
& Grandmommy

**Tai'La Wilson**

Tai'La,

Your Mother is very  
proud of you. You  
possess passion and  
commitment to your  
art!

Always know that  
Mommy and Kee  
Kee have your back!  
We love you!

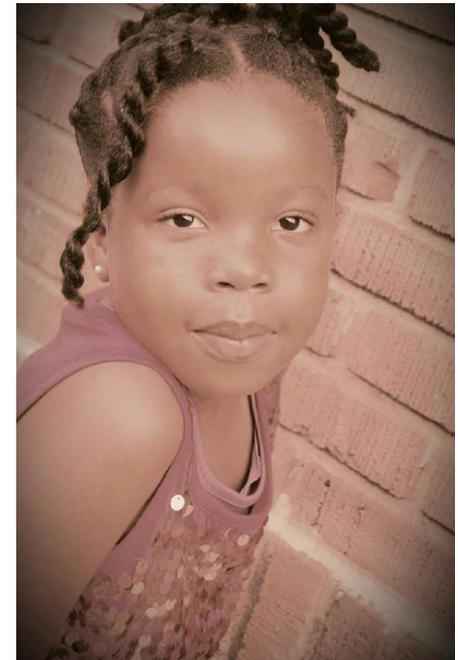
Mrs. Simmons

**Carsyn Ashleigh Smith**

To our star, Carsyn!

Where has the time  
gone? We are proud  
of you!

Be the best Mrs. Puff  
the world has ever  
seen!

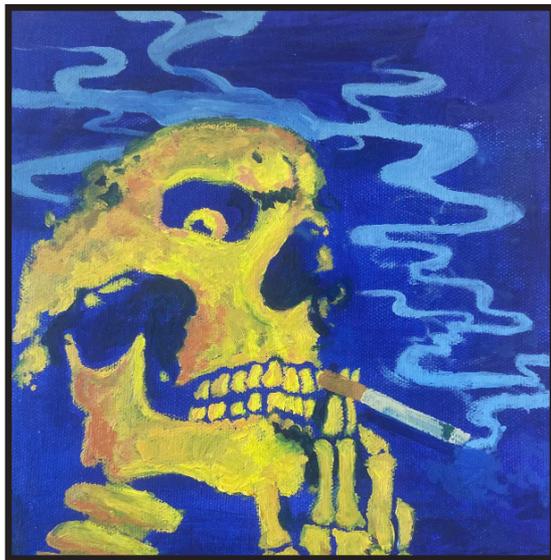




**“Grand Scheme”**  
by Margeaux Burkhardt, 12th grade



**“For He's a Jolly Good Cello”**  
by Rory Gregory, 12th grade



**“Untitled”**  
by Emily Apostolico, 12th grade  
(Unfinished)



**“Untitled”**  
by Tulah Cramer, 11th grade



**“Untitled”**  
by Tui Xan Tin, 10th grade



**“Wood Duck with a Blurred Friend”**  
by Abby Short, 12th grade



**“Ceramic Turtles”**  
by Evelyn Bueschgen, 12th grade



**“Untitled”**  
by Aurelia Beck, 10th grade

**RK:** I love working with Judith Hamrick the most: she plays Karen and is amazing at the role. I think she's the perfect person for Karen and she has helped me to create my character for Plankton. She's just such a fun person to work with in scenes, and she's too funny.

**MS: Does Plankton finally steal the Krabby Patty secret formula?**

**RK:** You'll have to come to the show to find out.

## Parker Legette, Mr. Krabs

by Z'Nyah Nelson

**Z'Nyah Nelson: Tell us about your role as Mr. Krabs.**

**Parker Legette:** Playing Mr. Krabs has been an absolute pleasure. Krabs is a very comedic part, which is fun to play as I don't usually play a comedic role. He's a very stuck-up guy who is obsessed with money and not his daughter Pearl, who is played by one of my great friends Morgan. Working with Morgan has been amazing, as I have been learning new things from her every time we work together. Overall, Mr. Krabs has been an amazing part to play and I'm very excited to share him with people.

**ZN: What is your background in musical theater?**

**PL:** I've been doing musical theater since middle school where I got



Parker Legette

my first lead role as Linus in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. I've worked with different companies around Charleston like CAMT and Charleston Stage. I recently just finished a production of *Music Man Jr.* where I played Professor Harold Hill, which was probably my favorite role I have ever played.

**ZN: How have you approached your role?**

**PL:** I've approached Mr. Krabs with just being confident with my choices. Krabs is a very big and loud character, so in any acting choice I make I need to be big with it.

**ZN: How has your interpretation of your character changed over the rehearsal process?**

**PL:** Right before doing the show, I imagined Krabs as just a stubborn guy who only cared about money, which he is at the beginning of the show. But as the show goes on, we see a softer side of Krabs and he finally shows his love for his daughter.

**ZN: Is there anything you do before going on stage?**

**PL:** Before going on stage, I usually just talk to my fellow cast mates and just hype each other up. I try not to think too much, because the more I think about it, the more nervous I get.

**ZN: What are you most excited for in the**

**show?**

**PL:** I'm most excited about my song "Daddy Knows Best," which is a duet between Krabs and Pearl. Singing that song with Morgan is so much fun, as we are both incredibly loud, so I'm a little worried about us breaking the speakers. The song is also so catchy, and I'm very excited for the little surprise at the end of it, so come to the show to see it.

## Morgan Schatmeyer, Pearl Krabs

by Anna Garziera

**Anna Garziera: Introduce your character and the role they play in Bikini Bottom.**

**Morgan Schatmeyer:** My character is Pearl Krabs, the daughter of Mr. Krabs. Her dad owns the Krusty Krab where she is set to be the manager of the popular dining establishment. However, her dreams are set on meeting her favorite boy band, The Electric Skates.

**AG: How do others in the show see your character?**

**MS:** I think most people see Pearl as a typical moody teenager, which is fair: she gets annoyed by, like, everything. SpongeBob sees the spark in her because he always sees the good in everyone. I think without his comfort she wouldn't have pursued her dreams. Thanks, Tai!

**AG: How have you approached the role?**

**MS:** I'm really big into characters and

being super presentational, so I decided to approach Pearl as such. I'm reminding myself that this role is super fun and I should have as much fun as possible playing her. Vocally, Pearl is really tricky for me, so I've been practicing healthy vocal habits and getting advice from my castmates. Again, thanks Tai!

**AG: What did your auditioning process involve, and how did you prepare?**

**MS:** For the audition, we had to select a few characters we were interested in and pick a song that highlights our voices in a way that compliments the characters we chose. I picked Sandy, Pearl, and Karen for my initial audition, and I sang "My Man" from *Funny Girl*. We also had a dance audition which was the choreography for "Bikini Bottom Day." Dance is always a touchy subject for me...

**AG: What is your background in musical theater?**

**MS:** I started doing theater when I was eight years old with the mindset that I would never ever sing on stage, which is really crazy to think about. I think I



Morgan Schatmeyer

was in fifth grade when I did my first musical and I really fell in love with it. I've done show after show since then and I love it more the more I do it. Some of my favorite roles have been "Berthe" in *Pippin* and "Ursula" in *The Little Mermaid*.

**AG: What are you most excited for in the show?**

**MS:** I think I'm most excited to be in such a talented and huge cast of people. I'm also excited to be acting as Parker's daughter for the second time in a row. We both are very loud and energetic people and have a great time together on stage.

## Zachary Butler, Old Man Jenkins

by Yatawee Petchsuriya

**Yatawee Petchsuriya: What's something we can look forward to with your character? If so, what archetype have you most enjoyed playing?**

**Zachary Butler:** You can look forward to a funny outgoing character. I've really enjoyed kind of being an enemy of one of the main characters.

**YP: What were your first impressions of Old Man Jenkins? Have your thoughts changed on the character as you practiced him?**

**ZB:** I was honestly very confused about why I even got him, as I didn't think they would give a Magnet kid a speaking role, even if it was a supporting character. I thought he was kind of weird because I didn't expect an Old Man to really be in the musical at first. After practicing as him, I'm happy I did get him because I do get to have fun acting like a kind of crazy old man.

**YP: What is your favorite aspect of *SpongeBob*, and was it a show that you enjoyed in your childhood? Have your thoughts on the show changed since then?**

**ZB:** My favorite aspect of *SpongeBob* is honestly the dancing and just the uplifting feeling it gives you. It's just really fun. I grew up with *SpongeBob* being my favorite show, and after the musical ends, I will miss it and will probably go back to watch another one of the episodes.

**YP: What was the audition process like for you? How were rehearsals?**

**ZB:** The audition process was a little nerve-racking, but it was eased a little bit because as a prior SOA kid, I kind of understood how auditions worked, and I auditioned with a group of friends so it wasn't as scary. The callback for *SpongeBob* was really bad for me, though. I don't know why, but I



Zachary Butler

was really nervous. After getting Old Man Jenkins, rehearsals were pretty fun, and now that we're almost done, I'm even more excited because it's been a lot.

**YP: What is it like balancing your role in *SpongeBob* with school?**

**ZB:** It's honestly kind of tough because the musical is cutting into my track season, and I had to miss two practices because I'm the Sophomore Class President, so I had to do a lot of things for Spirit Week, the pep rally, and other things. But I have been balancing it pretty well and it's helped me learn some time management.

**YP: How has the overall experience of taking part in an SOA production been for you, and what's the most rewarding part about it?**

**ZB:** I feel like it has been pretty good, and I have enjoyed my experience because I've met new friends and gotten to reunite with some old friends. But I feel like the most rewarding part has just been having fun playing in the musical.

**YP: What's most challenging about playing Old Man Jenkins?**

**ZB:** I would say the most challenging part is maintaining the voice I created for him, and also the fact that I'm trying to incorporate my character into the opening number while still keeping the energy, because I am technically an old man. But it's not that hard because it's not my first time with something like this.

**YP: What should we, the audience, look forward to in *SpongeBob* as a musical?**

**ZB:** Just a fun experience and something a little different! Just a lot of fun basically!

## Kaitlyn Pinckney, Mayor of Bikini Bottom

by Eliana Gross

**Eliana Gross: Has your role as Mayor of Bikini Bottom inspired you to go into a career of politics?**

**Kaitlyn Pinckney:** Absolutely not... If anything, it's inspired me to do the complete opposite.

**EG:** What similarities, if any, do you see between you and your character?

**KP: The mayor talks sooo much, yet makes zero sense. Most of the time, it feels like she's talking just to talk, which I think makes it a lot easier for me to play the role.**

**EG:** In what ways are you different?

**KP:** She doesn't own up to her actions, but if she does apologize it's very insincere. I'm a pretty honest person, so if I do something wrong I'll admit it, and if I apologize, I try to make



Kaitlyn Pinckney

Isis Hanna

it as genuine as possible.

**EG: If the Mayor was a SOA student, what do you believe their major would be? Why?**

**KP:** Band, mainly because she's literally insane (no offence).

**EG: Who is your favorite *SpongeBob* character? Why?**

**KP:** Probably Pearl. She's such a silly character and I can't help but giggle whenever she's in a scene. Morgan Schatmeyer does an amazing job with portraying the character!

**EG: What is your favorite part about playing the Mayor?**

**KP:** I love the fact that she gets her own fourteen-ish feet tall platform to stand on. It makes me feel tall and powerful, plus everyone looks like an ant when I'm up there.

## Carsyn Smith, Ms. Puff

by Madison McDonald

**Madison McDonald: What does it take to play the role of Ms. Puff?**

**Carsyn Smith:** Ms. Puff is a pretty simple girl. She wants a relationship but she is way too busy and uses the free time she does have procrastinating, like me. To be honest, out of all the characters, I believe Ms. Puff and I are the most alike, which made it easier to take on this role. I did have to learn how to talk like I'm crying all the time which is probably the biggest and hardest difference.

**MM: Before performing, what research did you do on the character, or were you already familiar with her?**

**CS:** Ms. Puff is a character that I was already very familiar with, as she was my favorite character from the show as a child. However, I had to look up some videos of her in the Broadway production and see how she walks and how Ms. Puff in the TV series talks as a reminder.

**MM: What do you enjoy most about the character?**

**CS:** I feel super lucky to have gotten Ms. Puff as my role because she is, in my opinion, one of the best characters to play. She is super pretentious, but also has moments where she lets that side of her go when enduring fear. Her emotions are a rollercoaster and I have always loved to play characters like that.

**MM: What was most challenging about taking this part?**

**CS:** The most challenging thing about taking the part wasn't Ms. Puff herself, but the schedule that I was given to work on her and the musical. During this process, I had my Theater Senior Thesis and others



Carsyn Smith

Isis Hanna

that I was in, so I was memorizing lines almost everyday 24/7 so that I could give equal attention to both. In relation to the role itself, Ms. Puff is in most numbers, and so I think the most challenging is probably remembering all the blocking for her.

**MM: How do you get into character?**

**CS:** When getting into character, I think of all the characteristics that this role has and try to embody them. For Ms. Puff in particular, she is a stuck up puffer fish who finds her driving students, *SpongeBob* and Patrick, terrifying. So I had to make sure that that came across whenever the three crossed paths.

**MM: What does it feel like to be on stage?**

**CS:** For me, the stage has always been the place where I feel the most safe. Although stage fright is a very popular thing, the only time this feeling occurs for me is before the show, but as soon as I get on the stage, it goes away. The stage can only be explained as a blank canvas and the person on the stage has the opportunity to either leave it blank, or make a masterpiece, and that chance makes me work harder to make a *Mona Lisa*.

## Sam Owens, Patchy the Pirate

by Cate Traywick

**Cate Traywick: Could you tell us a bit about your role as Patchy the Pirate?**

**Sam Owens:** Patchy is a staple in *SpongeBob SquarePants*, appearing in all the specials, so naturally he has a role in *The SpongeBob Musical*. Patchy the pirate is *SpongeBob*'s number one fan. He resides in Encino when he isn't roaming the high seas with his crew, and he will travel across the US to see *SpongeBob*. He can be found before the show sitting in his merch booth waiting for *SpongeBob* to come on stage.

**CT: What has your process been to prepare for your role?**

**SO:** For the voice and mannerism, I've studied the show a lot. Fun fact: Patchy is played by the same actor as *SpongeBob* himself, Tom Kenny. As for general character, I've spent a few days as Patchy to understand how he would act doing day to day activities. I love the character so much and his wild and rambunctious nature is something I'm really trying to bring to life.

**CT: What's your background in musical theater?**

**SO:** I'm a Theater major so I have an acting background. But when it comes to vocals, I have very little training. I have always been into musicals though, especially *SpongeBob* over quarantine. I've



Sam Owens

Cate Traywick

always wanted to be in *The SpongeBob Musical* and I'm so glad that Mr. Pickens has given me the chance to bring SpongeBob's number one fan to life.

**CT: What's your favorite moment from the show?**

**SO:** I would have to say any moment with Patrick and SpongeBob. Devon and Tai have incredible chemistry, and their harmonies sound incredible. Specifically during the song, "BFF," their friendship is just so wholesome and they just seem like such great pals. Additionally, "Super Sea Star Savior" is the highlight song for me. It is quite literally one of my top ten musical songs of all time.

## Ella Schrecker, Gary the Snail

by Cate Traywick

**Cate Traywick: Could you tell us a bit about your role as Gary?**

**Ella Schrecker:** Gary is SpongeBob's loveable, trusty pet snail. The real star of the show in my opinion.

**CT: What have you done to prepare for your role?**

**ES:** I watched *SpongeBob* every morning as a kid and my special little trick was my spot-on impression of Gary's meow. So, really, I didn't have to practice much, it just... came to me.

**CT: What's your background in musical theater?**

**ES:** I've danced for over ten years and my favorite style has always been musical theater. I played a villain role in my dance studio's production of *Jane of the Jungle* last year, and I was part of the dance ensemble in *Pippin* last year as well. I also do backstage crew and classes with Charleston Stage!

**CT: What's your favorite moment from the show?**

**ES:** My favorite moment from the show definitely has to be Ramere's stanky leg. I'd literally get a ticket just to see that.



Ella Schrecker

Provided

## "I Want My MTV: Unplugged" Sponsored by Applause

by Anna Garziera

SOA and AMHS students and graduates invite 80's music fanatics to join them in the Black Box Theater on Thursday, March 2nd, for the first of three shows they have been preparing for since late fall, "I Want My MTV: Unplugged." There are a myriad of reasons to attend; free admission is just a perk.

An annual tradition started in 2016, the performance aims to capture the essence of a music era with its most representative hits, often turning the student-run performance into a chorus sing-along for the audience, especially nostalgic for the sixties' babies in this year's case.

This year's show will be done like no other: split between three dates, the performance will be fresh each time around. With the musical era focus being 1980-1985, the March performance will feature bangers such as "Redemption Song," by Bob Marley (1980), "I Just Called to Say I Love You," by Stevie Wonder (1984) and "We Are the



SOA and AMHS students during rehearsal for "I Want My MTV."

Anna Garziera

World," by USA for Africa (1985).

*Applause* is thrilled, and hopes to see you at the Black Box Theater on Thursday, March 2nd, and to hear you sing along to the chorus of some classic hits from the eighties.

## Colour of Music Festival Brings All-Black Orchestra to Charleston

by Peter O'Malley

*From February 1st to 4th, the Colour of Music: Black Classical Musicians Festival visited Charleston, with eight exciting programs featuring the works of composers including Kodaly, Vivaldi, Mozart, and Dvorak. On February 4th, Peter O'Malley visited Masterworks II: Colour of Music Festival Virtuosi Finale.*

At 8:00 on Saturday, February 4th, the lobby of the Riviera Theatre on King Street was packed, full of concertgoers excited to hear works of Vivaldi, Boreinstein, and Schoenberg. The sold-out crowd was full of enthusiasm and excitement, and the social atmosphere brought life to the theater, even before the orchestra entered the stage.

The concert featured a program of four profound and contrasting works: two Vivaldi double concertos (cello and oboe), Nimrod Boreinstein's *In the Night* (a US premiere), and Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* (a string orchestra arrangement of the sextet). The program spanned three centuries, each work bringing new colors and sound. The Largo movement of the Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto was especially beautiful.

The classical music world has been predominantly white for centuries, and only in recent decades Black musicians have been given recognition in orchestral and chamber settings. However, this is changing: Xavier Foley, Jonathon Heyward, Joseph Conyers, Sterling Elliott, and others are some of today's greatest classical and most important musicians, and they each happen to be Black. The Colour of Music festival is playing an important part in this change, and through this festival and other organizations, the much-needed diversity in classical music is being achieved.

The performance was a unique and thought-provoking experience, with a diverse and impactful program that showcased great works of classical music. The combination of Vivaldi, Boreinstein, and Schoenberg's pieces provided a diverse range of sounds, colors, and emotions, making for a captivating evening of music. With a talented and passionate orchestra and a lively audience, the atmosphere was electric, and the night was a fitting finale to the Colour of Music festival series.

## Remembering André Leon Talley

by Anna Garziera

*Vogue* Fashion Magazine news director from 1983 to 1987, André Leon Talley (October 16th, 1948 – January 18th, 2022), was the first African-American to take on lead roles in the fashion industry as the magazine's male creative director and then editor-at-large from 1998 to 2013. Often regarded as both a fashion and a political icon, he was known for supporting emerging designers and advocating for diversity in the fashion industry.

His design career started in Providence, Rhode Island, when he worked as an apprentice of Diana Vreeland at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1974; from there, former *Vogue* magazine editors and advisors were impressed



André Leon Talley

The New York Times

with Talley, and eventually hired him as the fashion news director in 1983, where he pushed for more Black models and designers to be included in their fashion shows and magazines. Though the change was slow, his influence was certainly felt over the years: about thirty percent of *Vogue* magazine covers now feature Black models.

Following André Leon Talley's footsteps, design icon Virgil Abloh, who died on November 28th, 2021, age forty-one, will forever be remembered as one of the most popular and influential fashion designers of his era. Founder of high fashion brand Off-White, and Creative Director of Menswear for Louis Vuitton, Abloh paved the way for rising African American artists in the fashion industry. Through his collections, Abloh sent his political messages of equality and peace. Most notably, Abloh's Spring/Summer 2018 show in Florence, Italy, sent a clear message to the public: "The houses on the left are burning, the houses on the right are burning." Through the projections on the cityscape background during his fashion show, Virgil Abloh's message was clear.

As both an African American and a creative whose work emerged from the rag-tag genre of streetwear, Abloh was an important boundary breaker in a notoriously bordered business. Now, his high fashion brand is worn all across the globe.

As emerging artists, SOA students, and specifically Fashion majors, should take notes: not only did these two men become influential as political icons, they also surpassed expectations in being able to build a career for themselves in the competitive fashion world.

## The Legacy of Hattie McDaniel

By Riley Borkowski

On the evening of February 29th, 1940, actress Hattie McDaniel swept into the Ambassador Hotel with white flowers in her hair. The forty-six year old actress from *Gone With The Wind* was the first African American to be nominated for an Oscar. Still, with the ceremony held in a segregated venue, David O. Selznick had to petition for Ms. McDaniel to be permitted in the Coconut Grove nightclub. While her costars sat together, McDaniel, wearing a blue gown and gardenias in her hair, sat at a different table. When she took the podium after her name was announced for best supporting actress, she was the only Black woman in the room. While McDaniel stood in front of her white peers at the Coconut Grove, she was the picture of pride and joy. "I sincerely hope that I shall always be a credit to my race and the motion picture industry," she said, crying. "My heart is too full to tell you how I feel."

It was a historic moment, but it took nearly twenty-five years before Oscar crowned another Black actor, which was when Sidney Poitier won for 1963's *Lilies of the Field*.

Even after she received her Oscar, McDaniel's career struggled. She continued to be offered roles mainly as maids and cooks. The NAACP's executive director, Walter White singled her out for perpetuating negative stereotypes. He called on Black actors to stop "mugging and playing the clown before the camera." McDaniel responded by saying, "I would rather make \$700 a week playing a maid than \$7 being one."

The actress faced racism, even in death. She had asked to be buried in Hollywood Cemetery, but the cemetery was closed to African Americans. In October 1952, 3,000 people attended her funeral in Los Angeles. McDaniel left behind a remarkable, complicated legacy of artistry. Despite all the criticism she faced, Hattie McDaniel spent her life trying to prove her talents and skills were more important than the color of her skin, and she continues to be an



Hattie McDaniel with her Oscar award.

Entertainment Weekly

inspiration for many to this day.

When Black actress Mo'Nique accepted the Oscar for best supporting actress in 2010 for her role in *Precious*, she wore white gardenias as McDaniel had seventy years prior. "I want to thank Miss Hattie McDaniel," Mo'Nique stated, "for enduring all she had to, so I would not have to."

## Journalism Takes 134 Scholastic Awards

by Peter O'Malley

Well, we didn't actually win 134 awards, but the Creative Writing department took credit for each of their 133 winners... and Anna Garziera, a writer on our staff (and Fashion major).

Anna's sister, Linda, informed her of her winnings on January 26th. After mentioning it casually to Dr. Cusatis in Journalism class the next day, he pointed out that this was a first for our team. She was the first student at SOA to apply for the Scholastic Award for Journalism, winning a Silver Key, an Honorable Mention, and no money. "Actually, I lost \$60 because of the application fee," Anna said in class that day. "Was it worth it?" I asked. "I'm not sure," she replied.

Anna's success sets a wonderful example for our team. We're excited to see future reporters win Scholastic awards and represent *Applause* on a national level. We're choosing our classes for next year, and Riley Borkowski and Cate Traywick hope not to be left alone on our staff. Sign up for Journalism to write for *Applause*, and be among the next winners of the Scholastic Journalism Award.

## The Aye and Nay of Valentine's Day

by Anna Garziera

This year, like every year, the stress of St. Valentine's Day got to both the single and the taken. The dilemma goes both ways. Some find despair in not being able to find love, while others fear losing their significant other upon making a wrong move on the special day, and rightly so; about one in fourteen adults in the United States says that they've broken up with someone on Valentine's Day. But it didn't used to be this way.

Thought to originate from the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which celebrated the coming of spring and included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery, Valentine's Day celebrations as we know them today date back to the fourteenth century.

Valentine's Day wasn't always all about the chocolates, or even the flowers; however, with the rise of commercialization, there's really little left. As with most other things, children are the only ones who are still able to capture the original message and magic of Valentine's Day, with the crafting of valentines. I distinctly remember the first valentine I ever made. I was only in third grade, it was for my mother, and it was so simple: the jagged edge of the red cardstock and messy handwriting didn't take away from the message written inside. Whether you're single and ready to mingle or not, I hope you sent a valentine to someone you loved this year, and received one, too; there really is enough love to go around.

I wish I could say that grown-ups downplay the importance of the valentine by buying a premade monstrosity, sick with glitter and magenta, but many don't send a valentine at all. Instead, big fluffy bears and cheap chocolates are the go-to unoriginal gift. Interestingly enough, there is no clear correlation between bigger gifts and larger amounts of love between two partners. "Bigger isn't always better," said Peter O'Malley, who had recently been looking forward to celebrating the holiday. "I like to think personality goes a long way."



A handmade valentine from Anna Garziera.

Anna Garziera

## Claude The Pigeon to Perform in Applause Sponsored “I Want My MTV: Unplugged”

by Cate Traywick

Blind Melon! Pink Floyd! Claude Monet? If your heart sings (even just a little) from hearing about these artists, then you absolutely must check out the SOA student band, Claude The Pigeon. This may be the first you're hearing of them, or maybe you know them from a recent performance at lunch, or you could be familiar with the posters taped up around school at the end of last year that said, “Do you aspire to be the next Rodrick Heffley?” but no matter how you were introduced to Claude The Pigeon, it is undeniable that these guys have talent!



Claude The Pigeon playing at the Pour House

Freshmen Amelia Counts (Visual Arts), Audra Elm (Visual Arts), Lila Elm (Strings), and Sam Harris (Band) make up Claude The Pigeon, playing rhythm guitar, bass, lead guitar, and drums, respectively. “We have all always had a passion for music, so creating a band just came naturally!” the band told *Applause* when asked about their beginnings. “Lila originally came up with the name ‘Floyd the Pigeon.’ It was just a random idea, we all liked it, but we thought it sounded a little too much like Pink Floyd, so we changed it to Claude, inspired by Claude Monet.” Without a doubt, they settled on a unique and recognizable name that reflects the distinctive style and energy that the band possesses.

Though they book gigs pretty regularly now, right off the bat, this crew of musicians ran into issues with live performance. “For a long time it felt like no one was taking us seriously,” but after a few months of emailing and asking around, “word got out about us!” Claude has played an exceptional catalog of venues, including Garage 75, Zeppelin Pizza, and The Pour House!

With inspiration drawn from the likes of Misfits, Nirvana, The Beastie Boys, The Beatles, and a multitude of other bands, Claude The Pigeon presents as a classic (and often punk) rock powerhouse, offering original songs with titles including, “Girls Can Make Their Own Decisions” and “The Cat Song.” “A lot of tomfoolery and snacking,” the band enthusiastically explained to *Applause* when asked about what goes on during rehearsals, “with some practicing in between.”

Claude is slated to headline the *Applause* sponsored upcoming show in celebration of 80s music, “I Want My MTV: Unplugged.” In preparation for this concert, they have practiced and mastered multiple popular 80s tunes, including “Should I Stay or Should I Go” by The Clash and “Blister in the Sun” by the Violent Femmes. Be sure to check out Claude The Pigeon and a wide range of other talented musicians at “I Want My MTV: Unplugged,” and follow @claudethepigeon on Instagram for future shows and scores of other rad content!

## How to Win a Grammy Award

by Anna Garziera

Born in Awendaw, SC, Charlton Singleton began learning music at the age of three on the piano. He then went on to study the organ, violin, cello, and the trumpet throughout elementary, middle and high school. In 1994, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from South Carolina State University.

As a performer, Charlton leads his own ensembles that vary in size and style: he has performed all over Europe, and is a founding member of the ensemble Ranky Tanky, a quintet that interprets the sounds of Gullah from the

Southeast Coast of the United States. “We all sort of came back together and decided to celebrate the music of where we’re from. We wanted to make sure that we did it in a contemporary fashion, but still being respectful to music and our Gullah ancestry.” In 2018, Ranky Tanky reached the top of the Billboard; in 2019 they accomplished the same feat with the release of their sophomore effort, “Good Time,” which was recently nominated for a Grammy Award in 2020.

Singleton received his second Grammy Award with his band Ranky Tanky on Sunday, February 5th, 2023, in the category of Best Regional Roots Music Album for Live At The 2022 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. “Touring is really our thing,” he admits.

Charlton was welcomed at SOA in November, where he talked to students about his experience of professional jazz in Mr. Martin’s classroom. Among other things, Charlton is inspiring for his love of what he does. “We always hope to entertain, enlighten, and educate people that might not be familiar with Gullah. Love, Faith, Positivity. Those sorts of things are what the Gullah Community is about.”

By connecting back to his roots, Charleton Singleton has found both joy and success in the performing of jazz. As *No Depression: The Journal of Roots Music* put it in 2019, Ranky Tanky “drags the link back into Gullah with the lyrics: ‘One saw two saw ziggy zaw zo / Bobtail dominicker deedle daw do / Hail ‘em scale ‘em, Virgin Mary / Ike to my link Tom Buck,’” and in doing so, makes magic.



Charlton Singleton with his Grammy Award.

## Strings’ Seventeenth Annual Oyster Roast

by Anna Garziera

On Sunday, January 22nd, the High School Orchestra invited the SOA community to support the Strings program by attending the seventeenth annual Oyster Roast at Bowen’s Island Restaurant; this decades long tradition is the Strings program’s major fundraiser, attended by hundreds each year.

After a largely sunny January, the afternoon of the 22nd was stark and poignant. A heavy downpour grayed the marsh and flooded the Bowen’s Island Restaurant parking lot. Upon arrival, attendees crowded eagerly underneath the check-in marquee, and then scurried inside to the restaurant where, to their delight, Lowcountry boil pots came out steaming one after another and were emptied continuously on the shucking tables.

In the other shacks of the restaurant was the rest of the feast: a pulled pork barbecue station, a row of crock pots full of chili, a table full of desserts, and a hotdog tent just outside.

Overlooking the water, the chili shack was where Dr. Cusatis and Giovanni Cusatis played from 3:00 till 6:00 for the entertainment of their growing crowd. The chili shack was also where the wine and soda bar was set up; with drinks, music, and a cup full of chili, this was the place to be.

While the crowd was shy at first, brave souls soon enough began to join Giovanni and Dr. Cusatis in playing the drums, the cajon, and the banana, which functioned as a maraca. Most vividly, I remember the performances of Nicholas Grayson, Luke Shackelford, and Nash Doar, who surprised us all with



Senior Strings Majors enjoying the oyster roast

Provided

Anna Garziera

his musical versatility: from the drums, to singing, to the tambourine, to finally the cowbell, he certainly showed us that he is a well-rounded musician.

For some, this was their first ever oyster roast. The rookies could be spotted easily: their attire was inept, as they wore canvas shoes that soaked the rainwater like a sponge, white button downs or satin party tops, and no jacket, none of which paired well with their clumsy shucking technique. On the other hand, there were quite a few oyster roast connoisseurs. Among them was Elizabeth Hornig, who sported an all-black outfit, topped off with a warm fleece and some waterproof rain boots. “I went to my first oyster roast when I was four years old,” she admits.

Despite our being overdressed for the occasion and our mediocre shucking ability, Jazmine Vivas Young and I were able to finish a full pot of oysters, with minimal help from Nash Doar and his mother.

After consuming copious amounts of good food, large crowds gathered in the chili shack to hear Giovanni Cusatis and Dr. Cusatis play. Audience involvement was high at this point in the afternoon, and echoes of popular choruses could be heard for miles. The penultimate song that was played was a “Happy Birthday” for freshman Luciano Cusatis, who celebrated his fifteenth birthday that Sunday.

For the last song, a large portion of the audience was dragged on-stage. This is when the most interesting instruments came out, including two washboards, played by Lena Fimian and Alex Selby, who is now considering pursuing a career as a washboard soloist.

After this last highlight, everyone was ready to go home and reflect on how much fun they had had that afternoon. As always, the oyster roast would not have been possible without the help of the parents and students who volunteered their time to help continue this timeless tradition. The Strings program’s annual oyster roast is sure to carry on being a popular event at SOA for years to come.

## Opinion: The Importance of Black History Month

While some African American icons are known and celebrated on the national and global scale, some lesser known black pioneers and heroes remain obscure in classrooms and conversations, many of them with local origins. This is exactly what Black History Month stands to correct, even while some still deny the struggles and contributions of African Americans.

Here at SOA, Academic Supervision administrator Coach Butts has taken on the mission to educate her study hall students on heroes in black history every day in February. While introducing the black 18th Century inventor Garrett Morgan, she quoted him: “If you can be the best, then why not try to be the best?”

Surely this was the thought in the minds of Charleston’s own Ranky Tanky, a primarily African American band whose music is rooted in local Gullah culture. The group, which contains two past SOA commencement speakers, Charlton Singleton and Quentin Baxter, who have strong ties with both the community and SOA, won its second Grammy award this month.

Surely this was also the thought in the minds of the fourteen boys and their coaches who made up the 1955 Cannon Street All-Stars, one of sixty-one chartered teams in South Carolina’s Little League program that contained black players, causing South Carolina to secede from American Little League, rather than have the white teams play against the Cannon Street team. Although the boys were allowed to travel by bus to Williamsport, PA, to attend the World Series, they were not allowed to play due to having won all their games by forfeit. Surviving members of the team recall the chants of “Let them play!” that enveloped the stadium, but they also remember learning the news of Emmitt Till—a boy just slightly older than they were—being brutally lynched on the day their bus returned to Charleston.

Nearly seven decades later, the team is finally receiving the recognition they deserve for their bravery and for the suffering they endured for simply wanting to play the game they loved and were so good at. Now in their eighties,

the players at Cannon Street have not forgotten how marginalization affected their childhood: their story has undoubtedly shaped and motivated young African American athletes. Chris Lamb’s new book *Stolen Dreams: The 1955 Cannon Street All-Stars and Little League Baseball’s Civil War* tells the whole story of these brave trailblazers.

Unfortunately, in other parts of the South, books about black heroes who endured similar struggles during segregation are being removed from libraries. For example, Jonah Winter’s children’s book about legendary humanitarian and baseball hall of famer Roberto Clemente, *The Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates*, was removed from library shelves throughout Florida’s Duval County last week for its portrayal of the racism Clemente suffered. Even children’s books about heroes such as baseball great Hank Aaron and courageous civil rights leader Rosa Parks, whose abuse at the hands of racists is thoroughly documented, are being called into question.

Fortunately these tenuous attempts at denying the racial struggles of black Americans are far outnumbered by the celebration of the colossal contribution of African Americans that continues to enrich our culture.

## Join SOA’s Recycling Club

by Isis Hanna

SOA has no shortage of fun clubs suited to any interest a student here might have. But did you know that there is a club you can earn service hours for joining? The Recycling and Ecology Club meets in Ms. Campbell’s room every Thursday on A days. Club member Noelle Junge says that right now, the club only entails collecting recycling from the bins around the school, but they hope to expand further in the ecology department with new projects like a garden or bug habitats. If you are in need of pre-approved service hours or are passionate about the environment, stop by Room 1111 after school next A day Thursday.



SOA Recycling Club

Provided

## The History of *The SpongeBob Musical*

by Isis Hanna

*SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical* is a musical theater adaptation of the beloved Nickelodeon cartoon *SpongeBob Squarepants*. Written by Kyle Jarrow and directed by Tina Landau, it features original songs by well-known artists such as David Bowie (“No Control”), Panic! at the Disco (“(Just a) Simple Sponge”), Sara Bareilles (“Poor Pirates”), and more. The show first premiered in Chicago in June of 2016 and made its Broadway debut at the Palace Theater in November of the following year. During its short run, it was nominated for twelve Tony Awards and won one for Best Scenic Design. Its national tour was unfortunately cut short in 2020, but the show will be returning to stages in the UK later this year.

The musical follows SpongeBob and his friends on a quest to stop a deadly volcano from erupting and destroying their hometown, Bikini Bottom. It features all of the well-loved characters from the show including Patrick, Sandy Cheeks, Plankton, Mr. Krabs, and more, all with their own part of the story. Their colorful personalities are perfect characters for the stage, and they make for an entertaining hodgepodge of dance and music. Unique costumes, extravagant set design, and over-the-top acting, not to mention sound elements that give the show the feel of the original cartoon, make this show something that anyone could enjoy, whether you’re a previous fan or you just like fun things. SOA will be bringing this show to life from February 16th to 19th, so be sure to check it out.

## February Events Celebrating Black History

by Madison McDonald

February 18th

### Gullah Market and Block Party: An Arts, Crafts and Food Expo

Coastal Discovery Museum, Hilton Head Island, SC

11:00 AM

### OCL Celebrates Black History Month

Orangeburg County Library - 1645 Russell St, Orangeburg, SC

1:00 PM

February 25th

### 2nd Annual Gullah Black History Month Experience

134 Cannon St, Charleston, SC

12:00 PM

### Black History Month: Black-Owned Makers Market

The Mercantile, 153 E White St, Rock Hill, SC

11:00 AM

### A Hint of Honey: Black History Month Day Party

\$75 - \$1000

Suite Sixty, 9221 Two Notch Rd #60, Columbia, SC

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

### “MAHOGANY” the Tribute Fashion Show

\$85

(864) 360-7712

1 N Main St, 4th Floor, Greenville, SC 29601

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

February 28th

### Daniel Odongo, Pharm.D., MUSC College of Pharmacy class of 2013

### - MUSC College of Pharmacy Black History Month Seminar

Virtual and in-person

Registration is required to attend the event.

(843) 792-2300

Brauch Auditorium, 284 Calhoun St, Charleston, SC 29401

12:00 PM

## SOA Slang Dictionary

by Riley Borkowski and Cate Traywick

**Cooking: (v)** To do literally anything; generally devious in nature. It can be elaborated upon by using various kitchen words.

“Ladies, he’s *cooking*, looks like we’ve got a chef on our hands! Pass him the paprika!”

**Based: (adj)** A term used to express general agreement or enthusiasm after a statement is made.

“Orange juice is better than apple juice.” *“Based.”*

**Silly: (adj)** A way to describe literally any emotion.

“How ya doin’ Riley?” *“(morose) I’m silly.”*

**Fr: (phrase)** Abbreviation for “for real.” It can be used to emphasize your point or to agree with someone else’s.

“Home Alone 3 doesn’t come anywhere close to the first two Home Alone movies.” *“Fr.”*

**Wildin’: (v)** To rebel against one’s standard morals or actions.

“Bro, did you see Peter’s haircut?? His barber *wildin’!*!”

**Salty: (adj)** To be irritated, angry, or resentful, typically when said emotion is unreasonable.

“Cate was *salty* that Riley’s rizz was unmatched, but she knew that one day she would acquire W rizz.”

**It’s giving:** Used when someone or something gives off particular energy. “Yo Mr. Martin, why did I get an F on my essay?” *“‘twas giving* Chat GPT.”

**Touch grass: (phrase)** A phrase to be stated when someone badly needs to reconnect with the natural world.

“I’ve been gaming for twelve hours today, I can’t leave my simulated girlfriend alone!” *“Touch some grass, incel.”*

**Caught in 4K: (phrase)** To be caught red-handed with photo or video evidence.

“Dude, I got *caught in 4K*. She had the screenshots ready and everything.”

**Gas up:** To fuel someone’s ego; to hype someone up.

“Hol’ up, I gotta go *gas up* Riley’s latest Insta post.”

## Where Were They Then: Ms. Horn

*Giovanni Cusatis* spoke with Theater teacher **Shannon Horn** to talk about her life before SOA.

### Giovanni Cusatis: Where did you grow up and what are some of your favorite childhood memories?

**Shannon Horn:** My dad was a civilian with the Air Force, so even though he wasn’t in the military, we still moved every three to five years. The benefit of this was I have been able to live in all different parts of the country. I appreciate this more now as an adult than I did as a child. My favorite memories are really just spending time with my family. We had lots of adventures together.

### GC: What was life like after high school?

### Where did you go to college?

**SH:** I did my undergraduate work at Nebraska Wesleyan University and my graduate studies at Central Washington University.

### GC: Where did you work before SOA?

**SH:** Before SOA, I worked at a small rural school outside of Springfield, Missouri, in a town called Seymour. It was one town away from where Laura Ingalls Wilder grew up. In the Charleston area, I taught at Alice Birney Middle School, Pinewood Preparatory School, College of Charleston, and now here.

### GC: What made you want to become a teacher?

**SH:** I think it is in my blood. Both of my parents worked in the educational field. The biggest reason is simply that I love doing it.

### GC: What has been your favorite part of working at SOA?

**SH:** Being at a school full of artists is really a dream. Watching students get to pursue their passions and talents everyday and to have those things celebrated by the school is very fulfilling.

### GC: In what ways have you been involved in theater outside of school?

**SH:** I have both acted and directed at numerous theaters in Charleston, as well as the other areas of the country where I have lived.

### GC: Do you have any advice for aspiring artists?

**SH:** Believe in yourself and never give up on your dreams.

## Where Are They Now: Deion Smith

by Giovanni Cusatis

*Giovanni Cusatis* spoke with 2015 SOA graduate **Deion Smith** to talk about his professional acting career and future in film. Deion has had notable roles in many TV shows and movies including *Outer Banks* and *Will Trent*. He recently landed a big role in the upcoming *George Foreman* biopic that is being released in April 2023.



Ms. Shannon Horn

Provided

**Giovanni Cusatis: What was the first acting job you obtained, and how did that get your career moving?**

**Deion Smith:** My first ever professional acting job was probably this TV movie I did called *Saving Westbrook High* in like 2011. I had one line in the movie, but that really is what I used to propel myself forward.

**GC: Were you working professionally while at SOA, and, if so, what aspects of your SOA Theater education helped you?**

**DS:** I was off and on. I will say I feel as if I wasn't as focused on my film/television career as an actor while I attended SOA. I was really just enjoying that time and navigating through my adolescence/discovering what I wanted to do.

**GC: Do you have fond memories of any particular SOA productions you were involved in or any lessons your teachers taught you?**

**DS:** Wow there's so many... you know, I really enjoyed every performance at SOA. Those were truly the days.

**GC: You are widely known for your role as Kelce in *Outer Banks*. Can you tell us a little bit about the importance of that role? Has it been a lot of fun working with the cast?**

**DS:** Yeah, he's one of those characters that you know is pretty privileged in the show. Not too many people are fond of him. He's one of the antagonists to the main characters in the show. Shooting that show is always a great time.

**GC: You were born and raised in Charleston. What is it like to film in your hometown?**

**DS:** Feels like a dream being able to come back to my stomping grounds and be able to live out my dreams on this scale.

**GC: You were recently cast in a major role in *Big George Foreman: The Miraculous Story of the Once and Future Heavyweight Champion of the World*. How did this come about and how are things going so far?**

**DS:** I got a self tape for the role, which is basically you filming yourself performing the scene on camera with a person behind the camera reading with you. I didn't expect to hear anything back for it to be honest, but then I got the call to meet with the director and the rest was history.

**GC: What is the audition process like for TV shows and movies? Has it gotten easier?**



Deion as Kelce on *Outer Banks*.

Galaxy Magazine

**high school, did you expect to be where you are now?**

**DS:** Looking back to myself in 2015, I was such a different person. I would say back then if you would've told me I'd be doing what I'm doing now, I'd have a hard time believing you. It's honestly all super crazy to me.

**GC: What has been your favorite moment of your career so far?**

**DS:** Probably being able to work alongside the legendary Forest Whitaker on this upcoming movie I have dropping in April.

**GC: What advice do you have for aspiring actors and artists in general?**

**DS:** Study the craft. Hard work beats talent. Don't settle. Don't give up. Persistence is key.

## Contemporary Movie Review: *BlacKkKlansman*

by Eliana Gross

*BlacKkKlansman* is an amazing true story based off of the 2014 memoir *Black Klansman: Race, Hate, and the Undercover Investigation of a Lifetime* by Ron Stallworth. Set in 1971 and starring Ron Stallworth (John David Washington), the first African American police officer of Colorado Springs who infiltrates the local branch of the Ku Klux Klan by sending Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), his Jewish coworker, to impersonate him when meeting the KKK members Stallworth talks to on the phone. Their mission is to stop the terrorist attack cryptically referenced by David Duke (Topher Grave), the Klan member he was in contact with. However, every step of the way, officers in their own precinct get in the way, displaying blatant racism and bigotry from the very beginning, harassing Stallworth and Patrice Dumas (Laura Harrier), President of the Black Student Union, during a traffic stop.

Along with the captivating story, the acting and cinematography was amazing. Directed by Spike Lee and composed by Terence Blanchard, I cannot recommend this movie enough. It is rated R for themes of racism and terroristic violence but also shows courage and bravery in the face of hatred.

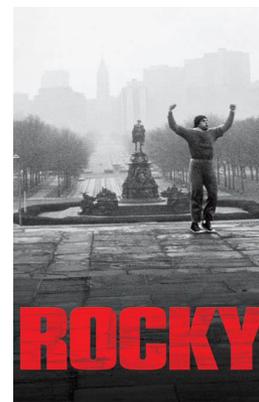


## Classic Movie Review: *Rocky*

by Peter O' Malley

*Rocky*, written by and starring Sylvester Stallone, follows Rocky Balboa, a small-time boxer given the chance to fight heavyweight champion Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) in a match to celebrate the United States bicentennial. Balboa, a local fighter and debt collector on the streets of Philadelphia, reaches stardom when he takes on Apollo in the ring, in the film's finale. The rags to riches story won Best Picture and two other Academy Awards at the 1977 Oscars, against such notable films as *Taxi Driver* and *All the President's Men*.

I remember seeing *Rocky* for the first time when I was in elementary school, with my Uncle Matt. Of course, as an eight year old, I was only watching it for the big fight at the end. Rewatching it ten years later, however, I found his shaping of the characters and pacing of the film were excellent. Rocky's relationship with his girlfriend (and sister of his best friend), Adrian, was complex, and a strong contrast to his training for the fight. Even more impressive was the fact that he wrote the screenplay in just three days. And I still agree with my third-grade self: the fight was awesome. The



Deion Smith

**GC: What would be your ultimate goal in the entertainment industry?**

**DS:** To tell meaningful stories that people can connect with. Being able to give back to my community to create opportunities for people.

**GC: In 2015, *Applause* asked you what your plans were for after graduation and you responded with "college...duh." As a senior in**

**DS:** We are in the age of technology, so for southeast actors like me, we rarely go in person. Especially with the pandemic happening, most of my auditions are self tape auditions.

**GC: You also own a photography company with your brother. Can you explain your role in that project?**

**DS:** Yes, me and my brother run a full service production company called Terrance Antonio Productions. We specialize in weddings. I'm head of the video production team.

**GC: Do you have aspirations to be behind the camera rather than in front of it?**

**DS:** Would love to write, produce, and direct in the future.

Provided

famous Philadelphia training montage got me super excited, and once they both were in the ring, I was on the edge of my seat. There were times when I wasn't sure Rocky would get up. The fight looked so real, and the rest of the film proved to be a worthy buildup to it.

I was really excited to see *Rocky* pop up on my Netflix at the start of the year. All five films (even *Rocky V*, which I don't recommend watching) are available to stream, and you don't have to be a boxing fan to enjoy the four good movies. The cast in each of the films is great, and somehow *Rocky IV* might be better than the first one. So, if you still have Netflix, go ahead and watch it.

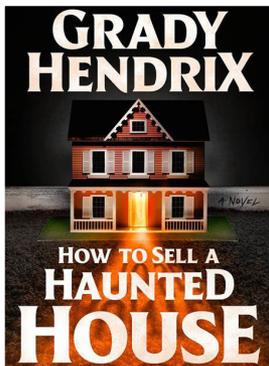
*Rocky* is a celebrated piece of American cinema, and its themes of perseverance and ambition give reason to its acclaim. The film shines a light on the working class of the United States and illustrates the American dream. *Rocky* is a must-see drama, and it's sure to leave a lasting impression on any viewer.

## Contemporary Book Review: *How To Sell A Haunted House*

by Beatrice Criscuolo

Grady Hendrix's new novel, *How To Sell A Haunted House*, published last month, is truly a contemporary book. There's no book like it - simultaneously a horror story and deep dive into two siblings' emotions when faced with their dead parents and their reawakened childhood memories. The story follows Louise, a Charleston native who moved away from her parents to forget her strange childhood and build a life for herself. However, after her parent's sudden death, Louise must head home and reunite with her brother, Mark, in order to tackle the seemingly impossible task of cleaning out and selling their childhood home. Despite animosity between the siblings, Louise and Mark begin the task, but have no way of knowing what they are getting into.

The minute Louise steps into the house, she is overcome with a feeling like someone is watching her, despite knowing the house is empty - except for her mother's collection of dolls, puppets, and folk art. As she begins to clear away the cluttered house, her feeling of unease increases. Though it appears that nothing is amiss, Louise begins to find puppets in odd places, as if they were deliberately put there to scare her. Soon, the puppets come to life, and the



real horror story begins.

After being attacked by taxidermied squirrels, dolls, and an especially unforgettable doll from her youth, Pupkin, Louise begs for help from her brother. They connect over shared childhood experiences and open up to each other about strange experiences in their youth, all of which Pupkin seems associated with. Armed with this newfound knowledge, Louise and Mark lay siege to the house, ending in a bloody confrontation. However, Pupkin knows just how to weaken them, targeting Louise's child and Mark's animosity against Louise. Finally, Louise and Mark are able to destroy Pupkin once and for all, and, at the same time, accept their parents' deaths.

Grady Hendrix, a Charleston native, has written multiple horror novels, including *My Best Friend's Exorcism* and *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*. However, *How To Sell A Haunted House* dives deeper into Hendrix's characters' emotions than some of his previous books. Though still intensely thrilling and frightening, it is an eloquent reflection on sibling rivalry and love in the Lowcountry. Due to Hendrix's history, Charleston is depicted so exactly that it seems as if you have just stepped out your front door and are in a conversation with your neighbors. This precision and attention to detail in Hendrix's writing leads to a novel you will never forget, whether it's because of the emotional journey of the characters or the horrific story of Pupkin the puppet.

## Contemporary Movie Review: *M3GAN*

by Z'Nyah Nelson

*M3GAN* (2023) is the newest movie by Gerard Johnstone. In the movie, *M3GAN* is basically a lifelike doll that's programmed to be a child's greatest companion and a parent's greatest ally, made by Gemma (Allison Williams), intended for her niece Cady (Violet McGraw). The movie follows Gemma making a lifelike doll to assist her niece with the death of her parents.

*M3GAN* (Annie Donald, Jenna Davis, and Kimberley Crossman) helps, protects, and acts as a friend to Cady. Gerard Johnstone illustrates how *M3GAN* becomes hostile to whoever gets into both of their ways. Later on in the movie, *M3GAN*'s actions turn drastic, and she begins killing others in order to protect Cady. An eventful and on-edge story with great casting, I consider *M3GAN* an instant classic



of the year.

Props to the director, Gerard Johnstone, screenwriters Akela Cooper, James Wan, and Jason Blum, and the entire crew for making *M3GAN* what it is. *M3GAN* is a well made movie with a unique storyline, excellent special effects, and talented actors! It's rated PG-13 for violent content and terror, some strong language, as well as suggestive references. It has a 3.7/5 rating, which is higher on the scale, so I highly recommend this movie while it's still in theaters.

## Contemporary Movie Review: *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*

by Cate Traywick and Riley Borkowski

### Cate's Take

Several weeks ago, I was sitting in AP Lang with my friend, and he proposed that we go to see *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* with our friends that weekend. Naturally, I was skeptical; I would much rather have gone to see quite literally any other movie that was showing at Terrace Theater that weekend. Despite my pessimism at the thought of going to watch the sequel to a *Shrek 2* spinoff in theaters, I went, and to my great surprise, *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* lived up to the hype.

The second installment of *Puss In Boots* picks up as Puss learns that his passion for adventure has burnt out eight of his nine lives. So naturally, he goes to reclaim his lives by finding 'The Last Wish' in the world, which grants one request to the finder. On his adventure, Puss reunites with Kitty Softpaws (from the original *Puss In Boots*) and he joins forces with an initially obnoxious, but eventually loveable mutt.

*Puss in Boots* is visually spectacular, it employs a comic book-esque style in action sequences that lowers the frame rate and spotlights the fun character design. At times throughout the movie, I found myself turning to my friends and mouthing 'that's so cool!!' at not only the visuals but the undeniably chilling villain, Death, personified as a sickle-wielding wolf with a mysterious hooded cloak. Death chases after Puss throughout his quest for The Last Wish, and his pursuit eventually leads to an epic finale, a duel between the two.

Though I went into *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* aggressively opposed to watching it, I wound up enjoying it immensely. Not only did I laugh, but I also got extraordinarily close to crying at the more emotional moments of Puss's journey (which is actually crazy because I have cried at maybe two movies ever). Overall, DreamWorks absolutely



killed it with this one. It has heart, fist pumpable moments, and a surprising amount of adult references, which adds up to an excellent movie that I would 100% watch again!

### Riley's Take

Nothing thrills me more than last-minute excursions with my friends, so when I received a text from my dear pal Cate on a Friday evening inviting me to see *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* the next day, I didn't think twice before agreeing to attend. Despite the constant chatter from my surrounding friends, I found myself completely immersed in the flick.

In the film's opening fifteen minutes, it is abundantly clear that *The Last Wish* is fighting tooth and nail to exceed all expectations. He takes on a moss-covered mountain beast with only his dagger; this scene is pulse-pounding. The sequence is gorgeously animated, including intentionally stuttering frame rate effects. These developments are dazzling; *Spider-Verse* has undoubtedly upped the game of every animation studio in recent years. *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* takes advantage of this, bringing dynamism to its action scenes and breaking away from the static late 2000s 3D animation.

The boundary-pushing isn't strictly confined to the animation; it extends to the themes explored throughout the film. Almost every aspect of *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* emphasizes the titular character's struggle to accept and value his mortality. After Puss comes to the realization that he squandered eight of his nine lives, he begins to realize that death is very real and very close.

Instead of over-the-top outbursts or slapstick comedy, he struggles in a fight with a bounty hunter, Puss slowly loses the upper hand, and the bounty hunter lays a hit on him. Puss' life flashes before his eyes in hair-raising, hyperventilating fear. It's a chilling scene, as the fear of death is familiar to many. The way DreamWorks depicts Puss' anxiety and fear is uncommonly realistic, a topic nobody expects to be explored in a kid's franchise.

A cat always lands on its feet, and *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* does so with considerable style, wit, and substance. It was a sequel nobody saw coming, but DreamWorks spent eleven years carefully cooking. No matter your age, *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* is a must-see cinematic spectacle.

## Video Game Review: Valorant Tier List

by Madison McDonald

After the 6.1 *Valorant* update, significant changes were made to the Agent roster, reordering the established META. This tier list covers the top five out of the twenty-one agents available.

Ranked first is Killjoy. Killjoy's two least optimal maps (Bind and Breeze) have been removed from both unrated and competitive queuing, and were replaced by two so that she out-performs any other agent on Lotus and Split. Her ability to lock down entire sights, collect information, cover tight corners, and inflict heavy damage on enemies has boosted her to number one. She can easily be played both offensively and defensively, but is typically used in more defensive scenarios.

Second is Raze, whose playstyle is incredibly aggressive, which can make her moveset especially difficult to handle. Her movement-based playstyle can dominate games by allowing her to travel fast and far while avoiding getting hit. Her other abilities are easy to use and can be devastating to other players. They primarily focus on forcing enemy players out of certain areas, forcing them to assume positions of tactical disadvantage to avoid taking damage or even being killed. Raze is incredibly easy to learn, but is hard to master. When Raze is mastered, she could easily overtake Killjoy as number one.

Next is Jett, another movement-based duelist. Unlike Raze, she can be very difficult to learn due to the precision it takes to play her. Her ultimate attack, Blade Storm, requires a steady hand and a great deal of patience to learn. She is a



little more versatile than Raze, but is far less easy to learn.

Ranked fourth is Sova, an agent great for locating enemies with drones and arrows which can scan the area. When he activates his drones, he can only see through its camera, not his surroundings, leaving him in a vulnerable position. His shock dart ability is enjoyable to use as he switches from a gun to a bow, in which he can fire his enemies with. It has a good area of effect, but it takes two hits to kill an enemy and his shock dart ability has two usages. His ultimate ability, Hunters Fury, allows him to fire massive rays from his bow which instantly kill enemies. Sova users shouldn't use the abilities too close to the enemies though, in case they find you in the middle of your ult. If this does happen, make sure you cancel, or otherwise you can get easily knifed.

Lastly, ranked number five is Reyna, who is also my personal favorite agent due to the selfishness of her abilities. Her ability "leer" is unlike any other blind in the game. If it is in the enemy's field of vision, they will be nearsighted until it leaves their screen. It has an unlimited range and allows Reyna to be extremely aggressive. With every kill, Reyna can either become invincible for a few seconds (she cannot fire during this time), or she can heal herself. This helps her to either escape or heal from difficult gunfights, sustaining her through the remainder of the game. Much like her normal abilities, her ultimate ability is sharply kill-oriented. With every kill she will fully heal (her shields too) and can become invincible and invisible for a few seconds (she cannot fire during this time either). This can allow her to take on entire teams by herself, appearing behind them and disappearing before anyone can hurt her. She is incredibly useful, even when by herself.

## Video Game Review: Puyo Puyo Tetris 2

by Gracie Pennington

The *Puyo Puyo* series is one that is very near and dear to my heart. Growing up, I had a tiny Sony Walkman that came preloaded with a copy of *Puyo Pop Fever*, and I played that game to death. I had no idea that there were new *Puyo Puyo* games even being made until a good friend of mine bought me a gift: a copy of *Puyo Puyo Tetris 2* released in 2020.

The title of the game confused me at first; I had no idea how they could have fused *Puyo Puyo* with such a game as *Tetris*, two fundamentally different puzzle games. However, they both have more in common than you'd think, and the way that they are combined in this hilarious and fun puzzler is genius.

In this game, you can choose your playstyle: *Puyo Puyo* or *Tetris*. The different puzzle game styles themselves are separate, but work with one another quite well. For example, in *Puyo Puyo*, the more combos that you get actually hinder the other players' progress, no matter if their playstyle is *Puyo Puyo* or *Tetris*. This also leads to a great head-to-head multiplayer experience between the two puzzle styles.

There are different game modes to keep you entertained so that you can play both solo and with friends, like in normal Versus mode and other Party modes. I especially like the Fusion game mode, because instead of *Puyo Puyo* and *Tetris* being played side-by-side, the two games are actually combined into a totally different game! It's incredibly chaotic and high-energy and is a lot of fun.

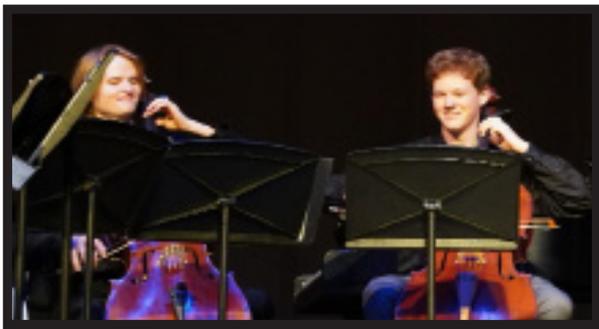
I was pleasantly surprised with the quality of the game. The art is simply adorable, and even though the storyline is annoyingly cliché, it's surprisingly hilarious, like a comically bad movie. The music always bops, as the soundtrack and sound design pack a lot of nostalgia from previous *Puyo Puyo* and *Tetris* games. All in all, if you need a good game to pass the time or to play with friends, this action-packed puzzle game may be exactly what you need.



### SOA Senior Strings Majors Perform Senior Theses

Photos by Applause staff

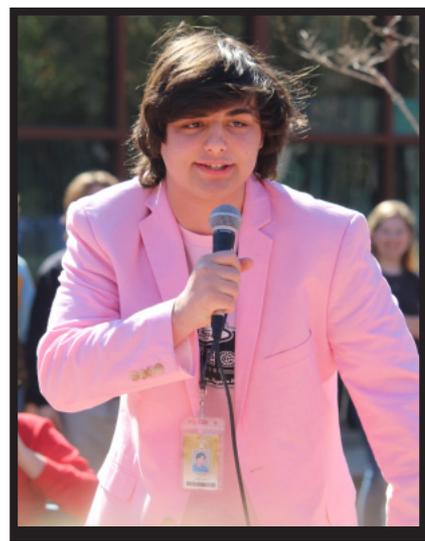
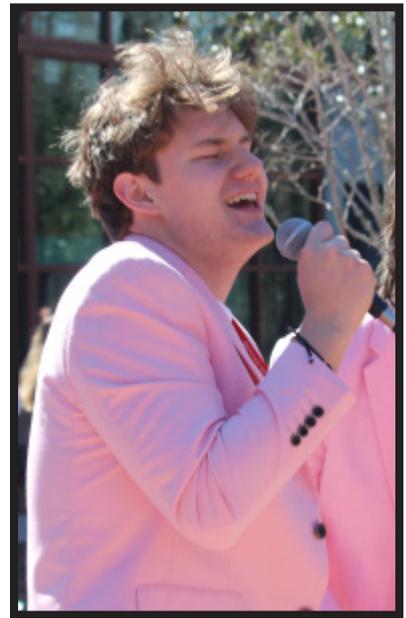
On Wednesday, January 18th, senior Strings majors took to the stage in the Rose Maree Myers Theater and performed their Senior Theses.



### SOA Student Council Hosts Valentine's Day Surprise

Photos by Lauren Holladay

On February 14th, SOA Student Council members performed a choreographed song and dance full of roses, glitter, and festive outfits for high school students during lunch.





The Charleston Parks  
Conservancy & The  
Park Angels Present

**13TH ANNUAL**

# Teddy Bear Picnic

Gazebo at Hampton Park  
Sunday, March 12th  
1:30PM-4:00PM



**Free  
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## Horoscopes

by Cate Traywick



### Aquarius (January 21 - February 18):

 Aquarius. Let's be for real. You haven't had weekend plans since November; it's time to branch out. Stop spending your days rewatching sitcoms that your dad disapproves of and make some friends! Actually, now that I think of it, Libra also has no friends. My advice? Go talk to Libra!

### Pisces (February 19 - March 20):

 Pisces, sit back and let the little victories come to you this month. Luck is on your side! You'll find random dollar bills in your pocket! Choosing C for every single answer on your math quiz will end up getting you an A! Challenge everyone you meet to a game of rock paper scissors, because you'll win every time!

### Aries (March 21 - April 19):

 Aries, sometimes it's best to just take a deep breath in (two...three...four...hold...two...three...four) and out (two...three...four). I know you're competitive, but there's no need to curse the world when you get third place in Blookit. Visualize yourself on a beach. Pet a cat. Maybe try meditation?

### Taurus (April 20 - May 20):

 Taurus, don't let the fact that you didn't have a date for Valentine's Day let you become vulnerable to the worst type of man. Does he exclusively listen to The Cure? Get out of there. Is his favorite movie *Fight Club*? Ditch him. Does he strongly relate to Holden Caulfield? Run.

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20):

 Gemini, love ya to death, but you are impressively horrible at chess. And I wouldn't be mentioning it if not for your incessant playing of it during class. You sit down, pull up Chess.com and proceed to lose four games in a row. Listen Gemini, some people are just better suited for checkers, and I'll come out and say it, you are among them.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22):

 How was Valentine's Day, Cancer? Any romantic plans? Did you make dinner for two? It's a shame that the answer is no, because you're truly a fantastic cook. You only slightly burned your toast AND you know how box mac-n-cheese works? Color me impressed. Pursue that love interest and impress them with your culinary prowess!

### Leo (July 23 - August 22):

 Hey Leo, I've noticed that you've had several lay-around-and-do-nothing-all-day days lately. But never fear, sweet Leo, I've got a plan. Instead of wasting away watching mindless TikToks all day, immerse yourself in the undeniably awesome realm of Middle Earth. All I'm saying, Leo, is that all three *Lord of The Rings* extended editions are now on HBO Max. Go crazy.



**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** I hate to break it to you Virgo, but watching *Legally Blonde* every night isn't going to help you get into college. I could make a myriad of *Legally Blonde* references right now, but it's time to get serious. You keep telling everyone that you're "too blonde" to understand chemistry, but I don't buy it. You need to get whipped into shape, Virgo! Bend and snap your way back into studying for your tests!



**Libra (September 23 - October 22):** Libra. Be on your toes this week. Someone is going to come into your life and royally screw you up. Tests? Failed. Social awareness? Gone. Positive emotions? Done with. But don't worry, when this person shows up, you'll definitely know. Maybe look out for Aquarius, I've been getting bad vibes from them lately.



**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21):** Feeling discouraged by your loveless, lonely, and undeniably sad Valentine's Day, Scorpio? Don't worry. I have the perfect event for you to attend to help you get back on that horse! *The SpongeBob Musical* will surely cure you of your romantic sorrows; Just hope that the complex themes of *SpongeBob* don't move you too much, lest you end up sobbing to "Hero Is My Middle Name."



**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** Sagittarius, in your efforts to appear mysterious and alluring to your fellow classmates, you have made an absolute fool of yourself. Don't pretend that you didn't attempt to wink at the guy across from you, only to realize midway that you can't wink and you just aggressively blinked at someone who doesn't have a clue who you are. Just be yourself, Sag! We all know you have minimal rizz. Own it!



**Capricorn (December 22 - January 20):** Capricorn, there are two kinds of people in this world. There are the good and noble people who toast their marshmallows to golden-brown gooey perfection, resulting in a perfectly balanced s'more. And there are the unhinged anarchists who allow their marshmallows to burst into flame, resulting in a charred mess of graham cracker, chocolate, and carbonized sugar. Avoid the latter.

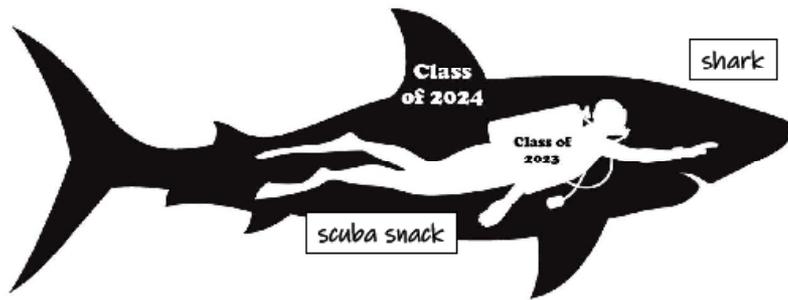


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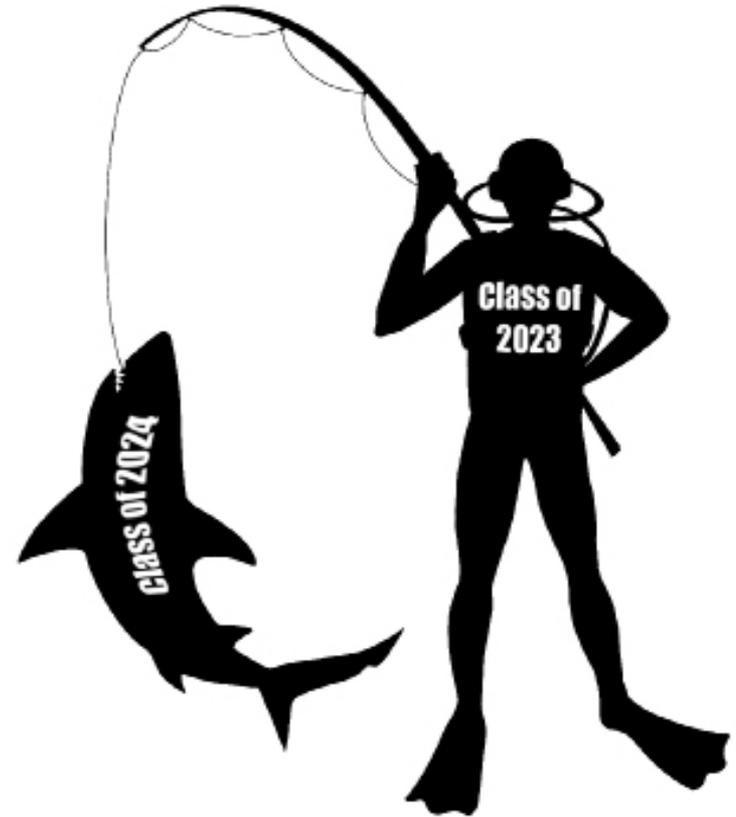
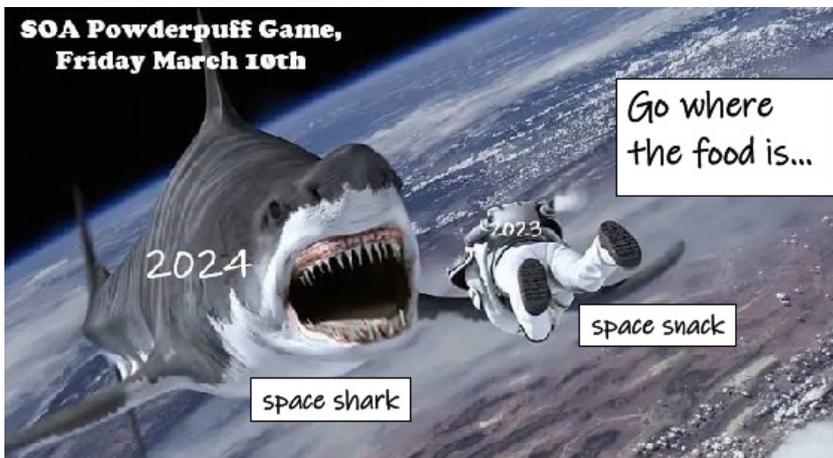
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Powderpuff Game, March 10th, 2023,  
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Friday, March 10th

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**SpongeBob Trivia**

by Gracie Pennington

1. What does Mr. Krabs love most?
2. What instrument does Squidward play?
3. What is Plankton's first name?
4. Who voices SpongeBob in the TV series?
5. What color are SpongeBob's eyes?
6. When is Mr. Krab's birthday?
7. What is the name of King Neptune's daughter?
8. Who is Mermaid Man's sidekick?
9. Which SpongeBob character doesn't have a nose?
10. In the episode "New Student Starfish," what does SpongeBob claim is the one thing funnier than the number 24?

**February Playlist**

by Beatrice Criscuolo

Feel the love this month with these passionate tracks.

**Jovanny Silva Velasquez, 11th grade Piano**

Provided

**8/10**

1. Greed (money)
2. The clarinet
3. Sheldon
4. Tom Kenny
5. Blue?
6. March 17th
7. Priscilla
8. Barnacle Boy
9. Patrick
10. 25

**Eddie Legette, 12th grade Visual Arts**

Provided

**7/10**

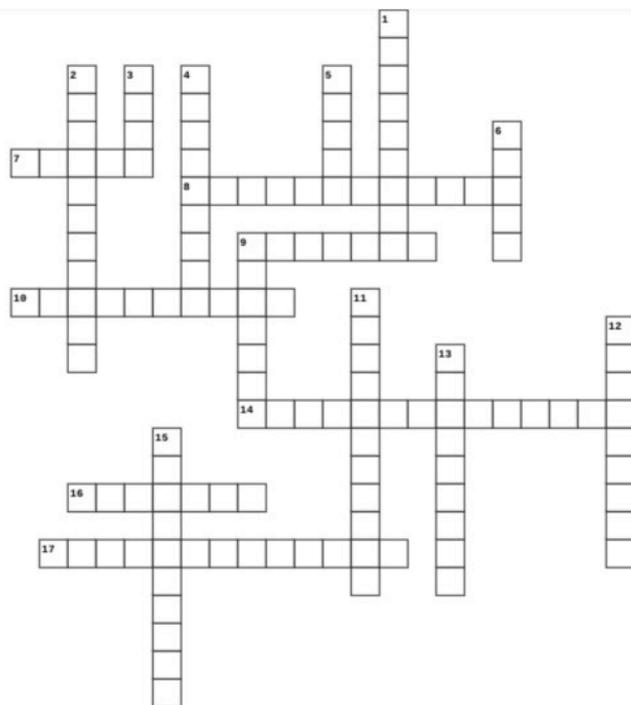
1. Money
2. Clarinet
3. Stewart
4. Tom Kenny
5. Blue
6. June 6th?
7. Marni?
8. Barnacle Boy
9. Patrick
10. 25

**Answers**

1. Money, 2. Clarinet, 3. Sheldon, 4. Tom Kenny, 5. Blue, 6. November 30th, 1942, 7. Princess Mindy, 8. Barnacle Boy, 9. Patrick, 10. 25

**SpongeBob Crossword**

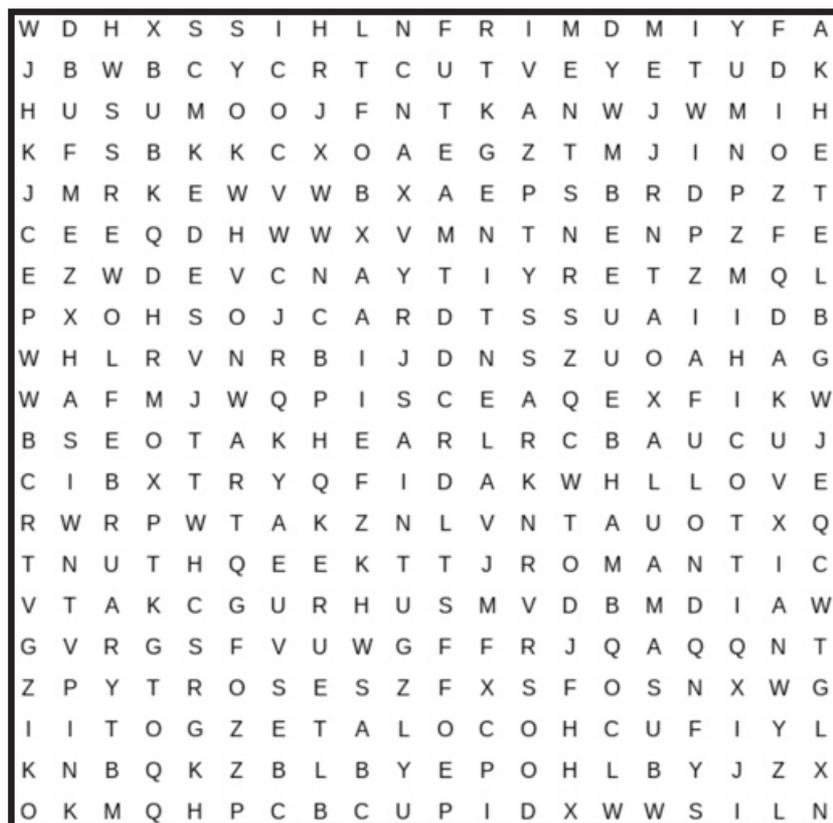
by Manny Stavrinakis

**Across**

7. A Texas-born squirrel that lives in an air-locked terrarium.
8. An extremely ripped lobster often found lifting weights in Goo Lagoon.
9. The stingy, cheap, owner of the Krusty Krab who is obsessed with money.
10. A picky food critic from Bikini Bottom who can hide numerous items under his tongue.
14. A green pirate-ghost named after a famous ghost ship.
16. A pink, slow-witted starfish that lives under a rock in Bikini Bottom.
17. An elderly farmer fish from Bikini Bottom who is "young at heart."

**Down**

1. A cheerful fry cook at the Krusty Krab who lives in a pineapple under the sea.
2. A tall, grouchy, semi-retired superhero of Bikini Bottom who has a very large nose.
3. A pet snail with the vocabulary of a cat.
4. A crudely drawn caricature of SpongeBob who comes to life.
5. A fangirl of boyband "Boys Who Cry" and the daughter of Mr. Krabs.
6. The robot co-owner of the Chum Bucket and wife of Sheldon Plankton.
9. The owner of a boating school and has been dating Mr. Krabs for sixteen years.
11. A bald, mighty, trident-wielding mermaid god who rules the sea.
12. The owner of the Chum Bucket who has an obsession with the Krabby Patty secret formula.
13. A cashier at the Krusty Krab who plays the clarinet as a hobby.
15. A semi-retired superhero of Bikini Bottom who wears a magical belt.



# Valentine's Day Word Search

by Manny Stavrinakis

- ADMIRER
- KINDNESS
- CANDY
- LOVE
- CARD
- PINK
- CHOCOLATE
- RED
- CUPID
- ROMANTIC
- FEBRUARY
- ROSES
- FLOWERS
- SAINT
- FOURTEENTH
- VALENTINE
- HEART

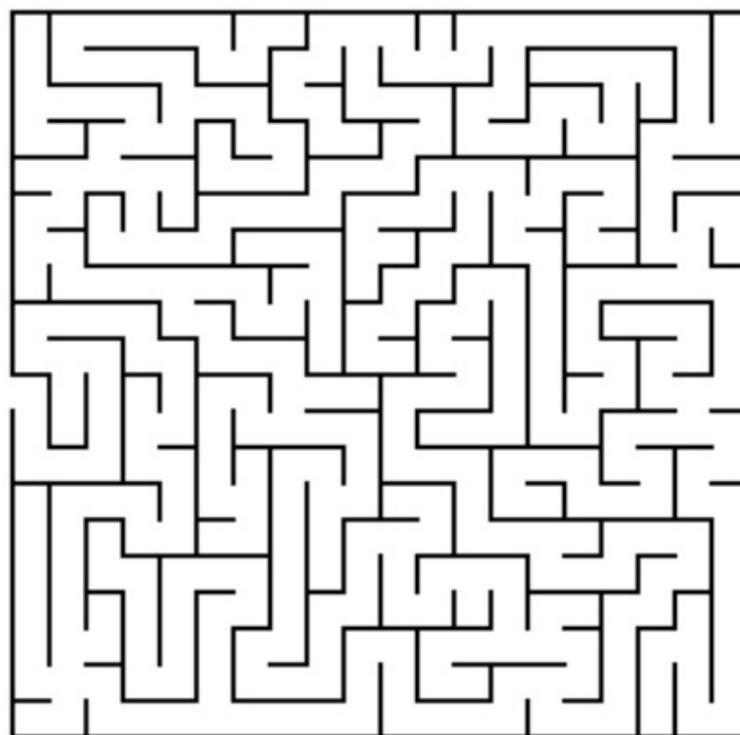
# SOA Sudoku

by Manny Stavrinakis



# Help Ms. Horn find her screenplay!

by Manny Stavrinakis





“ABC’ by The Jackson 5.”

Rose Markiewicz, 6th grade Band



“Beat It’ by Michael Jackson.”

London Lemus, 7th grade Band



“Good as Hell’ by Lizzo.”

Sabreen Adem, 8th grade Strings



“Run The World’ by Beyonce.”

Ms. Miller, High School Math

## What is your favorite song by a Black artist?

by Isis Hanna and Cate Traywick



“Public Service Announcement’ by Jay Z.”

Mr. V, Middle School Math



“I’d Rather Go Blind,’ by Etta James, or anything by Prince.”

Ms. Cimballa, High School Visual Arts



“Low’ by SZA.”

Shelby Miller and Nicholas King, 9th grade Theater



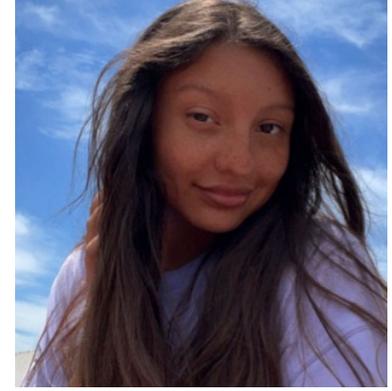
“BEST INTEREST’ by Tyler The Creator.”

Mads Heffner, 10th grade Vocal



“Old Town Road’ by Lil Nas X.”

Hailey Carnegie, 11th grade Vocal



“Mi Gente’ by J Balvin, ft. Beyonce.”

Jazmine Vivas Young, 12th grade Theater