

WOKSAPE

"The Wise Book"

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SHAKESPEAREAN PLAY USES A MODERN FLAVOR



BY
KATRINA
VYBORNY

"Do not let thyself be fooled by the costumes of such simple design, for the drama put on by these students of art is far more complex than meets the eye."

This statement may have been something William Shakespeare himself might have said if he had seen Yankton High School's production of "The Shakespeare Project." Though the cast was mainly dressed in simple costumes of black pants and the play shirt, the play itself was far more complex. By including one scene from each of the plays *Hamlet*, *Henry Five*, *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard III*, *Henry IV Part I*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Two Sonnets*, and *The Tempest*, the cast managed to act out many of Shakespeare's classics.

According to Mr. Bob Beard's director's notes, "The Shakespeare Project" was chosen to benefit students both by entertainment and education. The opening lines "Methinks the way we talk today too poor" sums up the basic reason for Beard's choice of this producing this particular play.

When looking at the stage, the main prop was the mural of William Shakespeare. Beth Braun was responsible for this prop. "I painted each canvas separate and then I stenciled on Shakespeare. When they were dry, they were connected. The mural was definitely an important feature because the painting is the main background for the whole play." As there were both simple props and costumes used in this play, Braun felt that "the simplicity helped focus on the words of Shakespeare and what he was really trying to say, as the lan-

guage in his plays are already confusing to people."

As for the costumes, Mrs. Pam Kallis, costumer, states that the costumes were chosen because she "wanted them to reflect the idea that students had come together to celebrate the beauty and relevance of the Bard's words. The costumes did not cover up who the students are - instead they enhanced the story the actor/actress was trying to tell."

Lexi Fokken, a student on costume crew, mentions that "the costumes gave a modern visual on the Shakespearian Era. It was quick to change costumes and did not distract the audience."

Kelsey Huntley, a member of the chorus, states "the simple costumes helped the audience focus on what was happening because people were not focusing all their attentions on the costumes."

This Shakespearian play in and of itself was no normal Shakespearian play; it had a modern spin on it. Mrs. Sheana Eggers, assistant director, says "I think the modern spin on Shakespeare helped the audience better understand what was being said, because it gave them a context in which to see an alternative setting. Sometimes all you need is a hint as to what is going on, and the modern settings did just that."

Kallis states, "We hoped that the audience would come away with a sense of the stories Shakespeare gave us. Portia begs a jury to consider the importance of mercy; Marc Antony wants to seek justice for the murder of his friend and political leader; Richard III is evil; Romeo and Juliet are really two young kids in love; Petruchio and Katarina are a fun couple. I guarantee everyone who saw this play would have giggled."

Hunter Baugh, one of the main actors in The Shakespeare Project, said that the play absolutely covers the best of Shakespeare.



PHOTO BY KATRINA VBORNY

Kelsey Huntley, Mikayla Vetter, Cebrina Kruse, Payton Terca, and Tanisha Hollingsworth are shown at a Capulet slumber party as they act out the balcony scene from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

"You cannot get anything better than the scenes in this play."

The main people seen throughout the whole play were the chorus. Mikayla Vetter, a chorus member, feels that the chorus "kept the play moving and gave a quick, descriptive introduction for each upcoming scene. It helped transition from scene to scene and set the new mood for each audience."

The general decision from the cast was that the Wooing Scene from *The Taming of the Shrew* was the hardest one to master. "In order to practice for the scene, I watched *Rocky* and invested my heart in the role," Madison Mines, female wrestler, says with a laugh, "I now have a new found respect for William (Shakespeare)."

Chorus member Tanisha Hol-

lingsworth states that "the Wooing Scene required most of the cast and everyone had to be in their correct place right at the beginning, or else the scene change would not have worked."

Paden Schmidt played the role of Richard III, a deceptive villain, from *Richard the III*. Schmidt did not know who this character was when he first tried out for the play.

Schmidt said, "I was just hoping to be in the play, but I am very glad that I was picked to be Richard III. Mr. Beard said I had a great tone of voice for the part."

From being in the play Schmidt learned, "there are so many ways a scene can go horribly or wonderfully; it all depends on how you read the lines."

The Battle Scene from *Henry IV Part I* was played in part by Calvin Wampol.

This scene was modernized with a Star Wars setting; the two characters battled wearing Star Wars costumes and with light sabers.

Wampol feels that "the use of Star Wars in a Shakespearian play helped grab the audience's attention." The scene was practiced two to three times every day. "Every time we practiced, I had to practice dying. I was told I am very good at dying," Wampol says with a smile.

With hard work, dedication, and hours of practice, the students of Yankton High School once again put on a play that was, in director Beard's words, "a good time for all."

Yankton High School Debate Team is Taking a Paperless Approach to Rounds



BY
NATHAN
RAUSCH

This year the YHS debate team has decided to go paperless and wireless.

The team will now have information at their fingertips and will also still have their hard copies if needed.

The school has recently purchased six new laptops and a portable printer, so they can print evidence and other material while at debate tournaments.

As the debate team moves forward with new technology and a new way to debate, Dr. Wayne Kindle stated, "We want our students on the debate team to be on the cutting edge of technology. They'll be one of the first teams in the state to go paperless and have laptops."

Senior competitor Steven Marlow said, "It will keep the clutter of all the paper to a minimum and uses space affectively."

In the long run, the paperless approach will be less expensive; because, the computers will last for many years, and the team won't be printing page after page of evidence to support statements.

Mr. Kallis also said the rules have now changed to allow computers in the rounds.

The process of going paperless works by saving information on flash drives and hard drives.

The debater competitors will still have to read their case off a paper; however, it will be

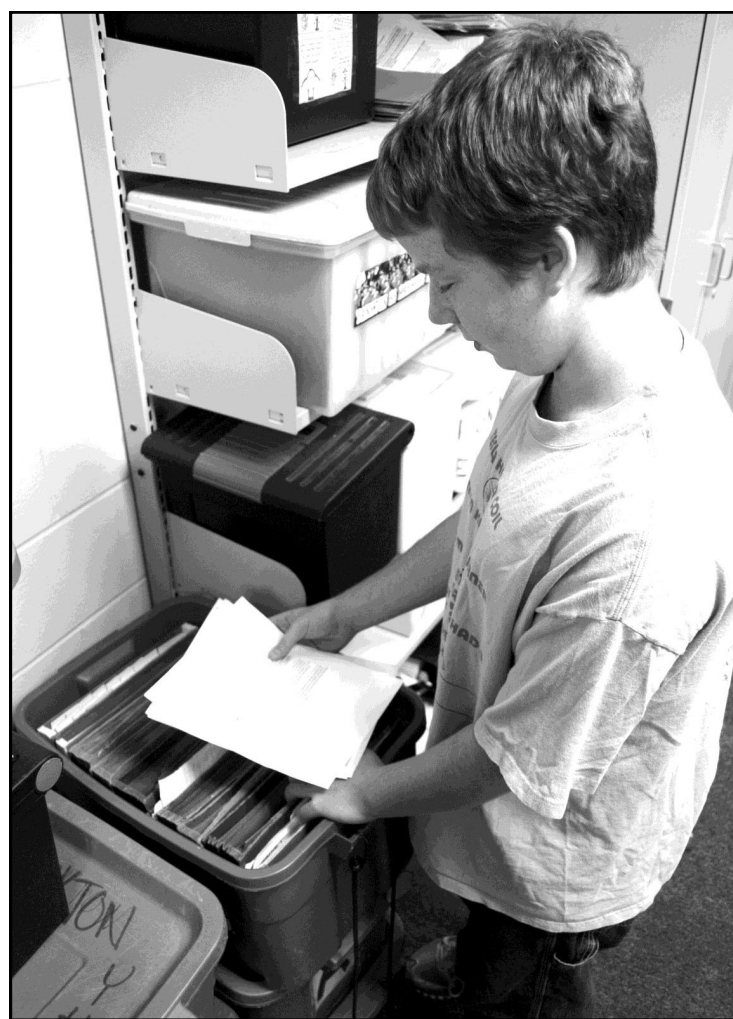


PHOTO BY MOLLY HENRICKSON

Freshman debate student, Broc Mauch, searches paper files.

easier to find case material on the computer versus going through tubs of paper files.

No one is required to go paperless, but the school and the debate team saw an advantage in going paperless.

Dr. Kindle is proud of the Yankton High School debate team and the school district wants to do whatever they can to provide the debaters with

the technology needed to compete.

Dr. Kindle said, "It is nice to see money put to a good use by purchasing the proper equipment to have our debate team go paperless. We are one of the first schools in the state to use computers in debate and that will give us an advantage in the end."

All-State Orchestra and Chorus Students Perform Annual Concert



BY
DAVID
BARNES

A longstanding tradition in South Dakota, the All-State Orchestra and Chorus spent many hours gearing up for its annual performance held October 29.

Mrs. Evander, Yankton orchestra director said she did like this year's musical selections, especially "La Grande Paque Russe" Overture. Mrs. Evander said she like it because it was completely new to her. Another piece Mrs. Evander said she liked was the Russlan and Ludmilla Overture. The conductor this year was Henry Charles Smith.

Mrs. Evander said that All-State Orchestra came about through the actions of teachers who met to discuss forming a state orchestra for adolescents.

The All-State orchestra first played in 1953, and Mrs. Evander believes this orchestra will continue to exist in the future.

The All-State Choir sang with the Orchestra at the All-State

Chorus and Orchestra performance.

Choral concerts combined pieces with the orchestra, including the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Hallelujah" from Beethoven's "Mount of Olives."

The choir sang some songs of a religious nature, such as Vijay Singh's "Surrexit Pastor Bonus" and "Jesu Dulcis Memoria."

Not all songs in the selection were religious though, "Neighbor's Chorus" is a fine example. The topic of the lyrics is a man whose haughty neighbors gloat at his romantic failure.

When auditioning, choir member Theresa Barnes said the judges looked for the following qualities in potential participants: "diction, dynamics, and tone quality."

Interim Yankton Choral Director, Kari Owens, explained, "The after-school audition is based on three elements: how musically they sing the song excerpts, how well they sight-sing and how accurately they match pitch during tonal memory excerpts."

Owens added, "Yankton sends four quartets. This means sixteen musicians are singing in Sioux Falls October 29th. In past years, Yankton H.S. has sent five quartets (20 people). School enrollment declined this year thus the amount of singers representing YHS at All-State also lessened. Schools such as Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Aberdeen all send five quartets. The minimum is one quartet per school."

Students must know their music well. Owens noted, "There is such a thing as 'spot-check probation.' Forty quartets (are) spot checked during the Friday rehearsal. If any (randomly selected) quartet fails a spot-check, they are put on probation for following years."

Owens said, "SDHSAA has always sponsored this formal, state-event where nearly 1000 singers rehearse for two days and perform a final concert. A guest director chooses and conducts the music for both days. At least 151 orchestra members also audition to perform in the concert."



Noteworthy
News Briefs

The Arickara, Yankton High School's yearbook, won an All-State award for the 2010-2011 yearbook under the leadership of Mrs. Jill Mikkelsen and last year's student editor, Jordan Koch.

The Gazelle volleyball team raised over \$700 for Breast Cancer Research during their "Dig Pink" event.

Junior magazine sales for prom decorating funds has cleared the \$10,000 mark en route to a \$25,000 goal. Students will be selling magazines through this week.

The following students were named to All-State Orchestra and Chorus:

Sarah Barkley
Hunter Baugh
Dillon Beckman
Rachel Busskohl
Tanisha Hollingsworth
Kipp Kinsley
Vanessa Rockne
Rob Schmidt
Chance Sorenson
Taylor Wendt
Theresa Barnes
Lexi Fokken
Jase Likness
MiKayla Vetter
Brianna Kelly
Matt Watt
Cody Geary

The indoor marching show tickets are now on sale and available through any marching band or color guard student.

YHS Band Parents and Students sponsored their annual soup kitchen on Thursday, October 27.

Black Hills State University

Register now for spring classes in Yankton

BHSU offers an Associate of Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC). This high-quality program is designed to give you the technical, management, and leadership skills needed in today's high-tech manufacturing field. This two year program prepares graduates for employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry.

Spring Class Schedule

TECH 120 Smart Buildings | Wed. 5-8 pm
TECH 210 Computer Aided Drafting | Tues. 4-7 pm
TECH 242 Machining Process | Mon. 4-7 pm

Black Hills
State University
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www.BHSU.edu/Technology

To learn more or register for classes call Tari Tielke at 605.668.5700 or email Tari.Tielke@BHSU.edu