

Orchesis spreads cheer with holiday show

Lisa Koenig
Contributing Writer

Most teams have coaches that come to every practice and tell them what to do, but the 19 Orchesis girls are the exception. Under the supervision of sponsors Andrea Olsen and Carolyn Manrose, the group has been working since October to create five of their own original Christmas dances for the show.

The music themes include jazz, hip-hop, lyrical and tap, with artists ranging from Jessica Simpson to Sugar-cult.

"This is a nice tradition," Olsen said. "The girls all dress up in Santa Claus outfits and carry candy canes."

To complete the holiday theme, senior Jared Tomaszewski will dress as Santa to introduce each act.

"It's really exciting. I mean, being Santa is stellar," Tomaszewski said. "I'm not a big kid, but I'm going to have a big pillow in my belly, so it's going to be pretty sweet."

Of the six routines that will be showcased, all but one were choreographed by the girls. The closing dance was choreographed by Heather Franklin of Dixon Dance Academy in West Dundee.

"You learn moves from different teachers or from different dances you've done," sophomore Emma Haduch said. "Sometimes we get stuck, but it's not too hard."

Haduch, along with junior Stephanie Kendzior and senior Aubree Anderson, choreographed the opening routine.

"I think it was easier choreographing with other people because everyone had different moves in mind, so we could incorporate them into the dance," Haduch said.

The middle four dances will be performed in groups while the opening and closing will showcase the entire team.



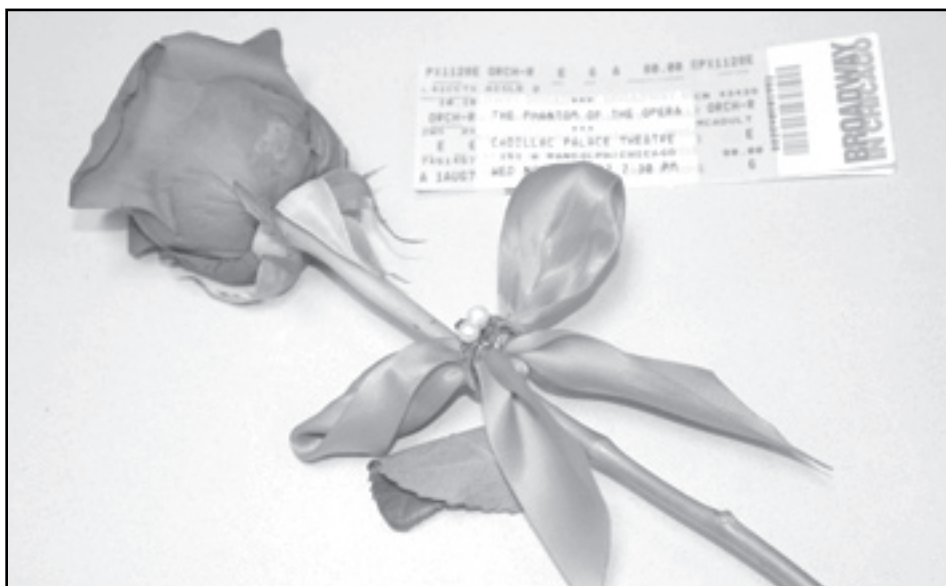
Logue photos by Kelly Chung

"I'm in the hip hop routine, but I've seen them all and they look good, so I'm really excited," said senior Lauren Hegg, the Orchesis president.

Unlike other shows, the holiday performance offers free admission and will take place only during the second half of lunch periods on Thursday, Dec. 20, the last day before break.

"It could be a great way to kick off winter break," Manrose said.

AS THE GIRL TURNS. The Orchesis dancers practice the jazz dance they choreographed to "Wild World" for the Dec. 20 Orchesis Holiday Show.



Logue photo by Meghan Morrison

THINK OF ME FONDLY. Students can buy tickets through Ticketmaster to see the musical.

The Phantom of the Opera, an unparalleled delight

For a self-proclaimed *Phantom* aficionado who has read the 1919 Gaston Leroux novel and watched (and shamelessly sang along to) the 2004 movie version and soundtrack more times than I care to admit, I considered myself well-prepared for the stage production.

The Cadillac Theater becomes the Opéra Populaire as Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* returns to Chicago in the latest tour of the longest-running Broadway musical of all time.

Upon entering the theater and noting the billowing blue-gray curtains draped across the scenery, gilded light fixtures lining the walls and the conductor's head peeking above the sunken orchestra, I realized it would be no ordinary show.

Erasing the boundary between audience and stage, the production succeeds in pulling its viewers into the action with a decadent setting, elaborate costumes, masterful effects and superb singing.

Because the story takes place in an opera house, actors and sound are used creatively, including a character in the orchestra



Meghan Morrison

pit. The Phantom's watery underground lair is made surprisingly life-like with fog and flickering candle-like lighting.

The masquerade scene assaults the senses as the cast descends the staircase in sequins, feathers, coat-tails and exquisite tights. Every costume is a work of art, making it difficult to focus on just one.

The best part of the show? The Phantom's voice switching seamlessly between a trembling whisper and the musical version of a primal scream, poignantly capturing the raw emotion of his intense, ill-fated love affair.

The show runs through Jan. 5. Tickets range between \$28 and \$85 and can be ordered through Ticketmaster.

Hollywood strike delays production

Kristin Palarz
Staff Writer

Imagine sitting at home waiting for a favorite television series to come on, only to find that there are no longer any new episodes.

This will be reality for favorite shows like *One Tree Hill*, *Grey's Anatomy* or *Gossip Girl* if the scriptwriters and TV networks do not reach an agreement to end the strike.

As of Nov. 5 at 12:01 a.m., the Writers Guild of America (WGA), the writers for all the major networks on television, went on strike.

Terrence Coli, a 1993 Fremd graduate who has spoken at Writer's Week, is a writer for the CW show *One Tree Hill*.

"For three months before we began the strike, we had been asking for certain issues to be addressed, but the producers did not take us seriously," Coli said.

The union is asking for what it considers fair compensation for the sales of DVDs, as well as for shows aired online and on television, according to Coli.

"These issues are important for the next generation of writers. We want to ensure that the best interest of the next generation of writers are looked after," Coli said.

The revenue produced by the advertisements that interrupt the shows online is not shared with the writers, according to Coli.

The producers of several networks have told the writers that the internet is too new to determine if it will generate a fair amount of revenue.

Previous generations of writers were

told the same thing about VHS sales, Coli says, and because they did not argue for a fair amount of revenue for the VHS industry, today's generation of writers have suffered from that loss.

"Everything was on videotape and was expensive to produce until the 1990s when the home video market took off. The same thing is happening today with the internet," Coli said.

Every day the writers are picketing outside major studios, like Warner Brothers, using a schedule so that one group of writers is on the line for about four hours a day, four to five days a week.

"For instance, the team of writers I am with will be on the lines from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., and the next

group of writers will come at 10 a.m. and stay until 2 p.m.," Coli said.

In addition to the writers, there are several celebrities who visit the picket lines in support.

Coli said some actors and actresses come to picket because they know that if the writers do not receive a fair contract, in the future, the actors will not receive one either.

"It feels good to know that we have support from more than one group of people," Coli said.

The strike sent many talk shows immediately into reruns, such as the *Tonight Show* and the *Daily Show*, which are taped on the day they air.

No one knows for sure how long the strike will last. Until the WGA and the studio producers can reach an agreement, scripted television shows are put on hold and will begin to air only reruns until their writers return.

"We want to ensure that the best interests of the next generation of writers are looked after."
- TV writer and Fremd grad Terrence Coli