

Notes from the Studios



A Semester Full of Inspiration! Performances, professional workshops, and field trips support a semester of creative activity in the Performing Arts Department

The Performing Arts students had an opportunity to work with many different artists and classes to hone their performance skills over the semester.

In September, the grade 9 and 10 Theatre ARTS students started the year with the *Plays in Cafes* project. Partnering with *Shadowpath Theatre Company* and guest artist Anita Nittoly, the students presented original plays to celebrate the Town of Richmond Hill's *Culture Days* celebration.

In October, the grade 9 and 10 Theatre ARTS students collaborated with the senior Cosmetology class and Pleasantville Public School to present an original performance for Halloween. *Alice Remixed* was a Halloween spectacular that

merged original sound effects and make-up effects with an original adaption of *Alice in Wonderland*.

In November, the grade 11 dance class completed an African dance unit that culminated in a three-day workshop with African dance specialist Sharon Harvey. The senior students in the dance department also had the wonderful opportunity to complete a classical Indian dance workshop with Sampradaya Dance Creations. This company was founded by the world renowned Indian dancer Lata Pada.

In December the junior dance students had the fantastic opportunity to work with local choreographer Stephanie Bergeron. Over a two-week period, they completed workshops in hip-

hop and classic jazz. The students were challenged and learned original choreography from the Bob Fosse choreographed musical *Pippin*. Stephanie will be working with the dance department next semester as one of the guest choreographers for Dance Expressions.

Also in December, the grade 11 Theatre ARTS students performed *Kiss Me Kate* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Working together with the Music Department, the performance was a highlight of the December performing arts season in Richmond Hill.



Fun From the Yellow School Bus

We love field trips! We were fortunate to work with inspiring Canadian and International artists. Highlights include:

- ✓ Visit and workshop from Alexander Mackenzie alumni Ramin Karimloo
- ✓ National Ballet's *Swan Lake*
- ✓ The Darcy's workshop
- ✓ Theatre Gargantua's *The Sacrifice Zone*
- ✓ Backstage tour of *Canadian Stage* and technical theatre workshop for *Needles and Opium*

Great Performances

We love to perform too!

- ✓ ARTS Information Night
- ✓ AMHS Dance Club Remembrance Day Performance
- ✓ YRDSB Special Education Advisory Committee Performance
- ✓ Kiss Me Kate
- ✓ Graduate Showcase



Some Additional Notes from Drama Studios

Grade 9 Drama

This semester saw our grade 9 Open drama students working on a varying number of different types of performances in class. From scripted and unscripted mimes and movement pieces, to mask and ritual performances, our students were able to experiment with different styles of dramatic presentations. Students completed performances of short scripts, and ended the semester by creating their own Anthology performances commenting on people who have made a positive difference in the world. The class performed admirably, and were a pleasure to work with throughout the semester

Grade 12 ARTS

The grade 12 ARTS students completed a tumultuous semester, rediscovering and being introduced to various styles of contemporary and historical theatre styles from

various cultures around the world. From Greek Tragedy, to Shakespearean Comedy, to Contemporary Realism, the class was involved in three one-act performances throughout the semester, showcasing their new-found appreciation for the similarities and differences between the major influences of modern Western-style theatre. Performed were adapted one-act versions of Sophocles' "*Antigone*" and Shakespeare's "*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*", as well as two contemporary pieces, "*Runtkiller*" and "*The Mothers of Invention*". Students also completed seminar workshops, where they delivered their own lessons to the class on different cultural/historical/stylistic forms of world theatre. The class may need a break after all their hard work!



