

Behind The Scenes

By: Gabbi Byrd

When seeing a play, the actors seem calm and collected like putting on a performance is a simple task. However, it isn't as cool and collected as you would think. The Tartan decided to go behind the scenes during a play to experience the true chaos.

Walking behind the curtain, there were several tables entirely covered with props with even more cluttering the floor space below. "There are way over a hundred. This play is very prop based," said Junior, Bailey Drummond. The number of items were overwhelming, but the actors knew where everything was without hesitation. In the choir room is where all of the stress filled the



environment. When walking in the choir room, there were 30-40 actors covered in makeup and for some like Oak Hills Junior, Elizabeth Pfalz had an entirely different persona. Pfalz had to dress as an older woman with a lot of wrinkles and shiny grey hair.

Although their makeup looked good and their outfits seemed perfect for their scenes, the actors were still hesitant on one thing: their lines. Some were pacing the room, constantly moving while whispering under their breath their lines that they would be reciting in front of a full crowd while others sat down, cracking their knuckles and doing breathing exercises. Even though the nervous giggles and soft whispers seemed to cover the room, Mama P, the play coordinator, was able to calm her students with fun stories and breathing techniques to slow them down and ease their anxieties. Senior, Sophie Rusin made a comment that made everyone in the room cherish every minute

leading to the opening scene despite the innate tension. She said, "Seniors. This is our last play, enjoy it!"

A few minutes before the opening scene, Mama P had the actors huddle into a circle, hold hands, and pass around good energy for the play. They each inhale/exhale to ease their nervousness and Mama P gave insightful advice that they will each hold onto for the rest of their careers.

**"I couldn't be more proud... this was the perfect cast to do this"
-Mama P.**

When the first act ended, the curtains quickly closed and the actors and stage crew moved swiftly and quietly to place the props perfectly in place for the next act. Their fast-paced and calculated movements showed that they knew exactly what they were doing and was demonstrative of their hard work. Even in the little room they had on each side of the stage, they still managed to find room to prepare themselves to enter onstage. After each actor stepped off stage after their appearances, they were greeted with a quiet congratulation or an exciting thumbs up from peers.

Each act consisted of quick thinking, squeezing past each other in tight spaces, and cheering each other on during stressful moments. Watching the play and the actors from behind the scenes demonstrated the hard work these students put forth for their production. The energy they bring is one of the best things that one can experience if everyone could see them they would understand the bond drama club has made over the years with their hard work and dedication. Good job drama club!

