

Young performers kick up their heels in 'Oklahoma'



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jen Curlin of Farmington Hills is a high steppin' participant in Mercy High's presentation of "Oklahoma." Curlin attends the Farmington Hills-based high school.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Paul Bozymowski, a Southfield Christian School student, dances the part of Will in Mercy High's "Oklahoma."

Young actors will get a chance to kick up their heels next week when Mercy High School presents "Oklahoma."

A cast of 77 high school students and adults from 16 schools and 23 communities come together to sing and dance their way through the story of Oklahoma's bid for statehood.

Told against the backdrop of a territory growing into statehood is the tale of a young woman faced with the choice of two very different suitors. One's steadfast and upright in the best tradition of the old West. The other finds himself walking the line between the right and wrong side of the law.

This staging of Rogers and Hammerstein's tribute to the pioneer spirit features cast members ranging from 6 to 23 years old. Karl Gallmeyer, of Bloomfield Hills plays Curly. Mercy High student Michele Hillen of Detroit portrays Laurie and Jeff Khalil, a University of Detroit High School student from Royal Oak is Jud.

Paul Bozymowski of Detroit, a Southfield Christian student, is Will.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

In a garden of parasols, Michele Hillen sings out in her character of Laurie. Hillen, a senior at Mercy High School, lives in Detroit.

Magic act presented

To help celebrate National Library Week, the Tuxedo Brothers, magicians who are part of the Clark Family Players, will be appearing at both the Farmington Branch and Farmington Hills Community Library.

They are scheduled to appear at the Farmington Branch, 23550 Library at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22, and at the Farmington Hills Community Library, 32737 West 12 Mile, at 2 p.m. the same day.

5th grader honored

Terrance Dwyer, a fifth grader at Lakeshire Elementary School, Farmington Hills, was honored at a luncheon given by Three Flags Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution on Monday, February 13 at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. His essay on Benjamin Franklin won first place in a field of 60 local entries in the DAR's history/essay competition. Terrance's entry now goes to the state level. Essays written by fifth grade students throughout Michigan will be judged by the DAR's state American history chairperson.

The Farmington Hills-based school's production is directed and choreographed by Roberta Campton. Mercy's drama department chairman, Ron Still, is technical director. The chairman of the school's music department, Larry Teevens, is the musical director.

Music will be provided by members of the Mercy String Ensemble, keyboardist June Williams and the Matt Michaels Trio.

Curtain times are 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 17-18, and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at Mercy High School, 11 Mile at Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and senior citizens and \$2 for children 12 years old and younger.

A special performance is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 15. Seniors, handicapped, residents of group homes and students of special schools are invited to a free performance.

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