



Eliza Doolittle (Kasey Lane) and the Cockney Quartet of Eleanor Harding, Curtis McGuire, Chris Richard and Andy Kravis sing "Wouldn't It Be Lovely."

Just you wait - 'My Fair Lady' opening at FHS

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High School's Festival Theatre will be home to Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins this Valentine's Day weekend.

About 120 students are working together as cast, crew and orchestra to present Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "My Fair Lady." The fun begins tonight, Feb. 13, and continues Friday and Saturday.

"The musical debuted in New York on March 15, 1956 with an original cast of Rex Harrison and a very young and unknown actress named Julie Andrews," said FHS Director Janet Vogel.

She's a teacher at Power Middle School in Farmington.

"Based on George Bernard Shaw's comedy Pygmalion, 'My Fair Lady' is the Cinderella story of how a young, uneducated flower girl (Eliza Doolittle) is transformed by the determined, pompous and chauvinistic teacher (Henry Higgins) into an elegant and refined lady," Vogel said.

Leads include senior Iden Bagdadchi who plays the arrogant and snobbish Henry Higgins and senior Kasey Lane as the delightfully outspoken Eliza Doolittle. The cast also features senior Jeff Durov as Colonel Pickering, Higgins' fellow linguist; senior Matt Bedikian as Alfred P. Doolittle, Eliza's philandering and good-natured father; junior Collin Kravis as Freddy Eynessford-



Eliza Doolittle (Kasey Lane) meets Professor Henry Higgins (Idea Bagdadchi) in front of the opera house.

Hill, Eliza's loving admirer; sophomore Julie Wallis as Mrs. Eynessford Hill, Freddy's watchful mother, and senior Eleanor Harding as Mrs. Higgins, Henry's realistic mother.

The cast has a chorus of 31 people and eight specialty dancers. In addition to the cast members, more than 50 students participate in various crews and 28 perform in the orchestra, under the direction of Norm Logan.

The vocal performance is under the direction of Kathy Serenot, a teacher at Dunckel Middle School in Farmington.

Lacy Kovack, a social studies teacher at Farmington High School is the choreographer, and Mike Steel, FHS music teacher, heads up the technical aspects of the play.

All crews are run by students. Costume head, senior Andrea Tartaglia has been responsible for the rental of more than 60 costumes as well as the design and sewing of another 50 costumes, Vogel said.

"Set construction head senior Drew Deorio and his crew have been diligently building the various platforms and flats needed for the show," Vogel said.

"Senior Natalie Ochmanek and her publicity crew have been designing T-shirts, posters and contacting the various newspapers for possible coverage of the show."

The props crew run by senior Andy McMillan has been combing antique stores to find items that would fit the 1912 time period in which My Fair Lady is set, Vogel said.

Senior Drew Martin heads up the program design and senior Lauren Allmayer has been running her crew for make-up and hair plans. Seniors Becky Velling and Andrew Amis work

PHOTOS BY ELLI BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MCMR Rainbow Breakfast broadcast through SWOCC

BY ANDY BONJOUR
SOUTHWEST OAKLAND CABLE COMMISSION

On Jan. 23, the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council (MCMR) held its 8th Annual Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast to honor members of the community who strive to promote awareness and acceptance of diversity in the community.

Hundreds attended the event, but if you missed out, SWOCC Studios (a service of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission) cameras were there to capture the happenings.

The event served up eggs, hash browns, and an opportunity to discuss the events that brought everyone together.

"Each one of us has a strength," said Dr. Sharon Cooper, Vice Principal of Dunckel Middle School and Honoree. "And each one of us can use that strength to bond together, and together we can accomplish much more than we could by ourselves."

Cooper co-chaired MCMR's Dr. Martin Luther King January Candlelight walk in Farmington Hills and founded the Dunckel Diversity Committee in 2001.

Heath Meriwether, Publisher of the Detroit Free Press, was the guest speaker, bringing world views and business experience close to home.

Meriwether put a global perspective on the issues of diversity, while his business experience stated that

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"success in the future will be defined by whether you have the best people who are comfortable working across the lines of race, class, religion and background."

Meriwether went on to talk about the necessity of diversity in a newsprint environment and in life in general.

"It's important to talk about diversity, not as something we tolerate, or even that we celebrate, but diversity is essential. It is essential in today's spiritual, social, business life, whatever you go into, diversity has to become a way of life," stated Meriwether

Susan Zurvalec, Assistant Superintendent of Farmington Public Schools, received the Chair Award for her outstanding involvement supporting the guiding principles of the MCMR council. Zurvalec helps set the tone for cooperation between the MCMR and the Farmington Public Schools Diversity Committee.

The Individual Honorees were selected from a diverse population including teachers, students, police officers and more who were honored for a fittingly diverse set of activities. In addition to selecting 70 Individual Honorees, the MCMR council honored the Adat Shalom Synagogue, Botsford Hospital, The National Conference for Community and Justice, and The Tawheed Center

with Organizational Awards.

"Even though we have a long way to go in dealing with racism and problems of discrimination, the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council's done an excellent job of bringing the communities together to deal with these issues," said Farmington Mayor James Mitchell, who greeted the community to the event.

The event will be broadcast at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday on Farmington 15. For more information about SWOCC Studios, call (248) 473-2800.

Andy Bonjour is a production assistant for SWOCC Studios. The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at Novi City Hall.

Awareness: Oakland Schools opts to put info online

In an effort to better inform the public about its procedures, Oakland Schools has begun posting the agendas for its Board of Education meetings on its Web site, www.oakland.k12.mi.us/about/board-education.html.

According to Oakland Schools spokeswoman Shelley Yorke Rose, the board decided to post the agendas because of requests from the public and the media. The board's next

public meeting is Feb. 25. The intermediate school district, which provides support and technical assistance to the various school districts in Oakland County, has recently come under public

scrutiny because of questionable business dealings by its top administrators. An internal investigation led to the recent firing of Superintendent James Redmond.

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