

# Mercy students to present 'Our Town'



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Mrs. Webb (Becky Herman) comforts daughter Emily (Jenni Ahern) in a scene from Mercy High School's production of "Our Town" the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Thornton Wilder.

By Karl Zimmerer  
special writer

It is three weeks before opening night and the cast of Mercy High School's production of "Our Town" gathers for a rehearsal.

Director Kathleen Sill whispers to stage manager Paul Bozymowski, and lead actors Jenni Ahern, who plays Emily, and Andrew Wood, who plays George. Then she yells: "OK, are you ready?"

The rehearsal has begun.

MERCY'S PRODUCTION of "Our Town" will open at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at the school, 11 Mile and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. It will also be staged 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Nov. 13. Tickets are \$3 at the door.

The rehearsal goes on. The choir practices singing "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds." Student cast members help each other with their homework. People mock each other's lines. Laughter rings out as someone spills M&Ms on the floor. Everywhere, friends talk, giggle and tease each other.

A SPECIAL sense of camaraderie develops between all members of the cast.

"There's a certain bond that develops through working together," said senior Melissa Taylor, Freshman Lauren Sears agrees. "We know we can fool around without anyone taking offense," she said.

Backstage, someone hums "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds."

To this group, that tie is the special relationships that have been formed between all the cast members. "You get to know each person differently," said Lena DeSousa, Mercy senior. "You see who they really are."

Another cast member comments: "We all know what makes each other laugh. It's like being best friends without really knowing each other." Shadows move behind the scrim. Music blares from a Walkman. Someone sneezes. Immediately, someone else digs up a Kleenex. The choir continues to practice.

DAVID FEICHTNER, a University of Detroit senior, points out: "Friendships formed have more meaning. You have to learn to put up with each other. You see sides that other people normally don't see. That makes for stronger friendships."

"Our Town" is a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Thornton Wilder. In it, Wilder says that humans must learn to savor life and appreciate those around them. Ultimately, the play is a celebration of life.

"We've all learned to appreciate and rely on each other," said Mercy sophomore Ellen Peck. "We've all started to realize how fast time goes by, how fast it's going to be over."

"We have to appreciate each other. It won't last forever."

Karl Zimmerer is a Mercy High School student and a West Bloomfield resident.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Emily (Jenni Ahern) ties the knot with George Gibbs (Andrew Wood) in a ceremony presided over by the Stage Manager (Paul Bozymowski) in a scene from "Our Town." The Mercy High production will be staged Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. at the high school, 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

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