



THEATER and DANCE at POLY PREP 2010

CONCERT CHOIR

Dan Doughty is very happy to see so many students enrolled this year in Concert Choir, and he is reviving a tradition which has lain dormant at Poly for many years: He will be taking Concert Choir on tour to Montreal for a week during Spring Break. I'm delighted to support him and his students in this exciting opportunity.

THEATER

I'm pleased to announce the two plays that will be presented by the Upper School in the first semester.

Freshman/Sophomore Play:

THE GOOD TIMES ARE KILLING ME by Linda Barry
Production Date: Friday, October 29

Lynda Barry's **THE GOOD TIMES ARE KILLING ME** is the funny and touching story of 12 year old Edna Arkins and the drama of growing up in a lower middle class neighborhood in the mid 1960's: her efforts to be cool, her parent's divorce, and most of all, her friendship to Bonna, a black girl on her block, and whether that friendship will survive Middle School. Music is featured prominently in the play - I consider it **HAIRSPRAY** without all the wigs and musical numbers - usually in the form of people singing with the radio or record player, so the ability to sing and to move to music would be a plus! There are great opportunities for double casting in this play so actors will

have lots of stage time. The production will be directed by Cynthia Babak who staged last year's production of "The American Clock."

Junior/Senior Play:

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE by Henrik Ibsen

Production Date: Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20

"An Enemy of the People" tells the story of what happens when an idealistic scientist discovers pollution in the spa waters of a small resort town. With the purity of their waters compromised, the entire town's livelihood is compromised. As the town struggles to find the political will to deal with the problem, careers, reputations, and families are destroyed. Although Ibsen wrote "An Enemy of the People" in 1878, this production will be set in present-day California: The issues he raised in the play – pollution, the environment, and municipal and corporate irresponsibility and greed – are ones that continue to confront society today.

AUDITIONS AND CASTING

Auditions for both plays will take place during the first week of school, beginning Monday, September 13. Details of audition requirements and locations will be given during Orientation. Students who audition and are cast in the plays must agree to be available for ALL rehearsals and performances, including at least two full Saturdays prior to each production. Rehearsals run until 5:45 p.m. five nights a week, so each actor should make plans to take the late bus.

STAGE CREW, TECH and COSTUME

One of the more fun ways to earn Activities credits is to participate behind-the-scenes. We are happy to welcome two new designers to the school – Costume Designer Kennan Quandara and Set Designer Katie Fry. I encourage students from all classes to come meet these two wonderful young ladies and to get involved with them in creating the magic that brings the theater to life!

DANCE

I'm very excited to announce the formation of the Poly Prep Dance Company. Pam Pollock has been working with a large number of very gifted dancers over the last few years, and we have recognized the need and desire for a specialized company of dancers who will perform on campus, and also travel to festivals and events outside of school. Participation in the Company will be by audition and invitation. More information will be available at Upper School Orientation and during the first three weeks of class from Ms. Pollock.

I'm very excited about the upcoming year and look forward to working with all our students and their families as we continue to expand Poly's great Performing Arts reputation! Questions about any of the Upper School Performing Arts activities may be addressed to me at narmstrong@polyprep.org.

Music lesson information will be available soon!

Best wishes,

Nick Armstrong
Performing Arts Department Head