

EDITORIAL

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

Theater needs director who will provide stability

Rickety folding chair. Snobby voice to match a snobby expression. Maybe even a megaphone. People have a pretty good idea of what a theater director should look like. While this image is certainly comical, it is ridiculously inaccurate. A real director does so much more than just criticize the actors.

A real director is responsible for choosing shows, getting funds, handling any house duties, directing all students (not just actors), interacting with the booster club, getting everything approved by administration and more. A director frequently looks less like a stereotypical Hollywood snob and more like an exhausted, slightly pale figure attempting to do six things at once. Except lately, the director is looking more like a ghost.

For the last two years, the theater director position has been a revolving door with five directors. The first resigned two weeks before "The Music Man" opened. The second was brought in only to finish the show and was out the door before curtain call. The third

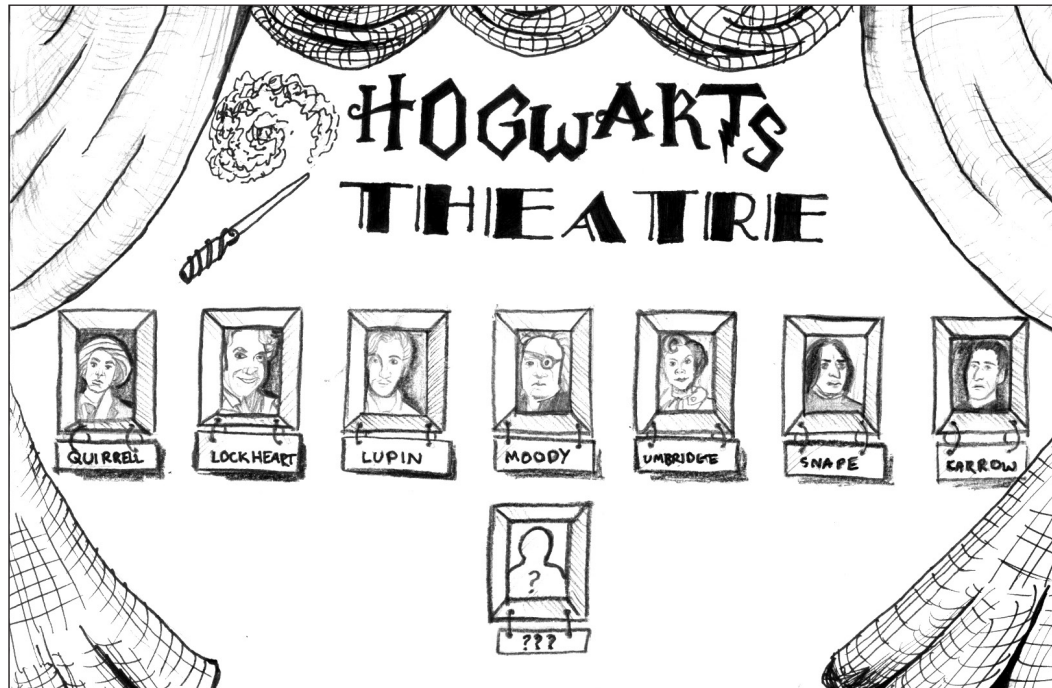


illustration by a. o'gorman

and fourth worked together to finish the year, but neither returned after summer.

To the company members, the hiring of the fifth director was a welcomed change. Finally some normalcy after all of the chaos of the previous year. Unfortunately, this calm was temporary. The current director plans to step down from the position at the end of this year. Administration is currently searching for a sixth director to fill the spot—hopefully permanently.

This means that the Tiger Theatre Company is now solemnly awaiting the arrival of the sixth director in only three

years. Once again the technical department, the students, administration and the booster club will have to work with another newcomer in a business that requires consistency. Invariably, the first half of the year will be spent with both director and company trying to figure each other out.

What the Tiger Theatre Company needs right now more than anything else is a director that is willing and ready to stick with the company. This pattern of arriving and disappearing makes it impossible for the theater to be run smoothly, and it is unacceptable for

one of the largest groups on campus. By contrast, at Pleasant Grove High School the theater director has been there for 17 years. As a result, the Pleasant Grove theater runs efficiently and autonomously. There is no need for outside assistance from administration because the theater runs like a clock.

This kind of ideal efficiency can only occur after years of work and development. For Texas High's Tiger Theatre Company to grow into a theater that matches the size and quality of our school, it too needs a director that will stick around for a decade or two, not just a year.

The only M&M

Junior reflects on lack of diversity in publications

I am one of a kind, and not in the classical ways like fashion choices or beliefs. There is no one like me at Texas High. I am the only full African American who is a writer on the Tiger Times newspaper staff this year.

One of the best qualities of Texas High is the vast diversity that is unique to our campus. You can always find someone who you can relate to. I adore the entire Tiger Times staff and being involved with newspaper, however being like an M&M in a sugar cookie occasionally gets old. Not that the entire staff is white, but minorities, are well, minor.

I don't feel unwelcome, but it's almost impossible to understand my culture,

who I am and where I come from. They can have sympathy, but not empathy. It's not a fault of theirs.

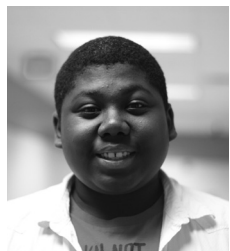
Unfortunately, while I was helping distribute the paper, I knew I would have to face the slightly aggressive half of the cafeteria, who has an unattractive habit of rudely refusing to even hold the paper. Despite my suggestion to possibly even look at our lovely pictures, minds were not changing. One student even asked me why should she "read what them white folks have to say." A gigantic wave of disappointment washed over me, as I realized that the people that I would relate to could not relate to newspaper.

Even though being black isn't the only thing I am. I feel left without a choice. With there being no one else to represent black culture, I have a desire to inject my culture as much as I can to correct the balance.

There is nothing that I want more than to be able to say that the newspaper can cater the whole population of Texas High. We are on a path of greater range of people involved. Hopefully, one day soon there will not be a lone M&M but just one of many in a bag of trail mix.



AHJA CHERRY
staff writer



Damien Hamilton, 9

"We need a good director. We need a new, high quality director that knows exactly what they're doing and knows how to bring everyone's inner actors out."

"Organization is a big thing. I think more standards for lower classmen that don't have any experience with theater would be helpful."



Savanna Martin, 11

SPEAK OUT

What can be done to improve the Tiger Theatre Company?

"Find someone that actually wants to stay and make the company better for themselves. We need someone to say 'I want to be here for the rest of my life.' One of those dedicated directors that's like 'I put everything in this. I put theater before my life right now.'"

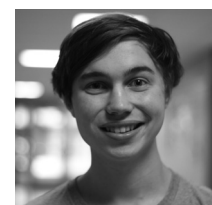


Layundra Curry, 12

"First off, we need a director. Then, I think if we had more freedom and we got to do more things, then the theater would go a lot more smoothly, and we might actually advance one year."



Colby Gillespie, 11



Gabe Lohse, 10

"I think that the theater company should be in control of the events that take place within the theater. The theater department should be more in control of its own theater."