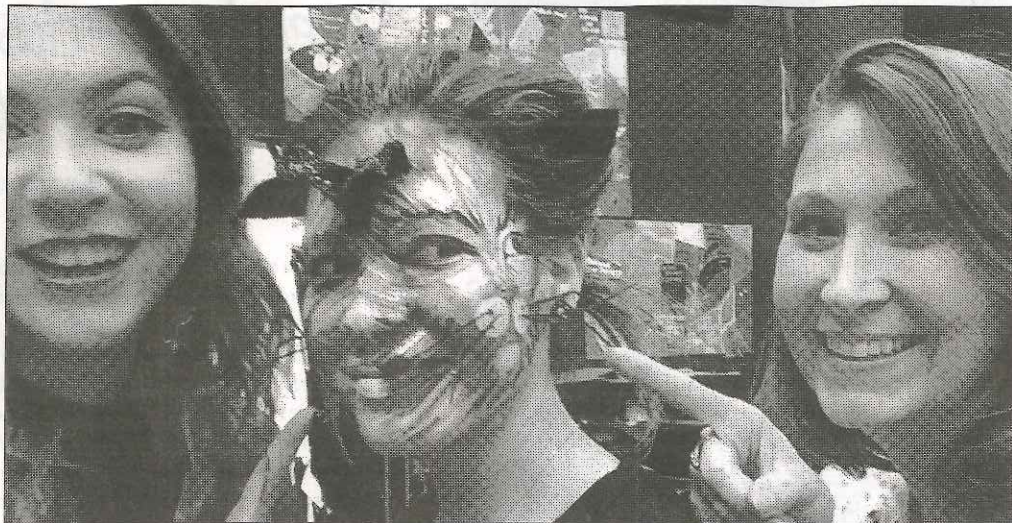


Senior Liz Saeun (left) poses with "Cats" model Keagan Styes and theater director Cheryl Painter. Saeun's "Cats" design advanced to the state round of the UIL Theatrical Design contest. Photo provided by Liz Saeun



A solid foundation

Makeup artist to attend Cinema Makeup School

LARISSA HEROLD & CHRIS HAWKINS
PROWLER REPORTERS

Senior Liz Saeun has dreamed of her art being seen on both the stage and the screen by people around the world. For years she has practiced, showcasing her work in school plays and state competitions. After all, theater is her hobby.

But designing makeup is her passion.

"[Makeup is] never the same; it's always different," Saeun said. "It really fuels creativity. ... I got my first makeup kit when I was 10. I didn't really want to do regular makeup so I did my makeup like Lady Gaga in the 'Telephone' video. [My dad] liked to do special effects makeup, so I took more interest in it."

Saeun has been a member of the PHS theater department for four years. Although Saeun both acts and does makeup design, she prefers makeup because she feels more comfortable. It was through makeup that she became more involved in theater.

"I did old-age makeup for a theater party, and [theater director Cheryl Painter] said, 'Oh, you're really good at this. You should come help with makeup for the show,'" Saeun said. "And then from there she kind of pulled me in for the other shows."

Painter has tried to give Saeun as many opportunities as possible, including participating in UIL Theatrical Design. In the annual competition, teams or individuals are given a play and must submit a set, makeup, or costume design that represents the work in a unique way. This year, the

chosen play was "Cats."

"I picked three characters for that play, created a new concept that was different from how it's originally played, and then did the makeup and hair for it," Saeun said. "I did freak show cats."

Painter says that Saeun struggled with creating an idea, but the final product got her to the state round of the competition.

"The musical 'Cats' is so iconic on its own," Painter said. "It's hard to not think about that when you're trying to design a show. Her idea of incorporating freak show and that Old Russian vintage circus look was really ingenious."

In the first round of the UIL competition, every entrant receives a critique from a professional. The second round is state, and those who qualify receive another critique. Saeun advanced to state as a sophomore, and again this year.

"[The UIL contest] definitely influenced me because being able to go to state and being told I'm actually good at this inspires me to go further with my talent," Saeun said.

In the fall, Saeun will attend Cinema Makeup School in Los Angeles. She doesn't plan to specialize in any specific style, so she will pursue a program that will allow her to follow a wide range of makeup options.

"I want to learn beauty makeup so I could do weddings and body makeup so I could go to Las Vegas, or I could do special effects [makeup] for movies," Saeun said. "I really don't mind as long as I'm doing what I like to be doing."



Freshman Avery Baker models one of senior Liz Saeun's "Cats" creations for UIL theatrical design. Photo provided by Liz Saeun