

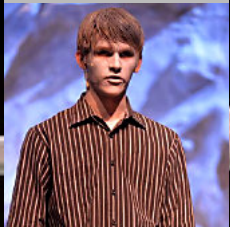
Maya Ferrer, 12



Hayley Batson, 11



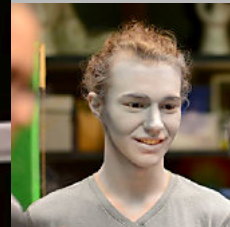
Michael Payton, 9



Lianna Meador, 12



Evan Ross, 11



Libby Kraemer, 12



THE RHS THEATER MAGNET HOSTS THEIR FIRST MUSICAL PREMIER PARTY.

PREMIER Party

"It's been a while since I had been on any sort of stage so it felt very natural and refreshing. I was doing what I loved to do for people who seemed like they wanted to listen. It was a very casual experience and it was a lot of fun to do."

-Brenden Owen, 12
[daphne lynd]



"My friends were there watching me, and playing with my friends in the band is what got me through the performance. I think the best part was when I pulled out my harmonica and everyone started cheering."

-Colin Lenihan, 11
[daphne lynd]



"It was my first time performing on stage in front of my peers at school, so I was nervous. Hearing Mr. Archilla announce my name was probably the most nerve-racking moment, but once I started playing, everything fell into place."

-Lauren Teel, 10
[fidelia nawar]



BAT BOY, played by sophomore Nathan May, emerges from his cave swinging with rage behind bars. "Bat Boy was an incredibly meaningful and memorable experience for me," May said. "Getting into character as a feral beast-child who spent half of the show running around squealing could be exhausting, but it was also super-fun and completely worth the work." [chase karacostas]

Timothy Seitz, 12



Polaris Hall, 9



Molly Molloy, 11



Killian Ellis, 12



Jayce Testut, 12



Dreon Hall, 11



black^{WHITE} and BLOOD

The Theatre Magnet put on its first-ever fall musical with the premier of 'Bat Boy.'

Director Cliff McClelland was overwhelmed with frenzy, pride and satisfaction as he observed his hardworking cast rehearsing the final scene of the musical.

"Bat Boy: The Musical" is the first fall musical that the Theatre Magnet has produced. McClelland found this show more challenging to direct than the regular spring musical.

"The main challenge was having to direct a musical I wasn't prepared for," McClelland said. "Normally, I would start preparing about six months in advance. I would work on design ideas, set, costume, lights and different styles of acting. I didn't get time to do any of that."

The plot revolves around a half bat, half boy creature who tries to blend in with the folk of the town, but he runs into obstacles along the way. His blood-sucking habit and the surprise ending makes the play a horror show.

"The show is rock and roll, rap, urban legend, blood and Halloween," McClelland said. "It has a great story."

At the end of the last school year, the head of the Tech Theatre Magnet, Jeffrey Winkler, decided that he was going to direct the musical. Over the summer, he chose to leave his job and instead work at Lake Highlands High as the head of theater. McClelland had to become the new director as a result.

"It has always been a show I wanted to direct, so it all worked out," McClelland said.

Despite the challenges, McClelland said that he still believed that "Bat Boy" would be a successful show.

"What makes it work is that we have a really good

cast and some really good technicians that have helped me realize my goals with the production," McClelland said.

The cast also put time and effort into the show. Junior Lauren Bascle said she thought that the musical improved as the time came closer to perform.

"I feel like it is really coming together well now, and we are working really hard on all of our leads," Bascle said.

About a month before the performances, McClelland decided to make the production in black and white. This means that the set – which had to be repainted, costumes, wigs and people would be in various shades of black, white and gray.

"It was stressful, but I was also excited to try something new," said junior set designer Chasyn Andrews-Philbin.

Before the play there was a festival with a live band, face painting, and a costume contest.

"I think it is going to be a real success," junior Ariell Dunkley said. "I think it was really fun working on the play, and I hope everyone enjoys it."

Junior Emily Shollack said that she felt that the rehearsals were stressful, but it would be worth it after the performance.

"Bat Boy" is such an amazing musical, and I'm super-excited to be performing in it," Shollack said. "I think our cast is going to perform great, and all the stress will soon be brushed away."

BEHIND THE Scenes



Senior Chelsea Blocker is airbrushed gray before the show to capture the black and white theme of the musical "Batboy." "It felt really awkward and sticky when they began to airbrush me," Blocker said. [daphne lynd]



Before the show, junior Jonathan Gibson is sprayed with gray airbrush to match the black and white style of "Batboy." "It was okay," Gibson said. "It was also cold and at times painful". [daphne lynd]

Story by Sydney Brown
Design by Madyson Thomas