



Mary Poppins Jr. Leaves Cast, Crew, and Director with Fond Memories

Interviews by Shawna Smith

After several months of practice, Quaker Valley Middle School's cast and crew of *Mary Poppins Jr.* put on three successful performances of the musical in the QVMS auditorium during the weekend of January 18-19.

Director, Mr. Tom Forrest, as well as members of the cast and crew provided their thoughts about the show.

Mr. Forrest - Director

Do you think you're going to direct again next year?: Yes

Favorite song: "It's hard for me not to say 'Step in Time.'"

Anything you would do differently?: "I wish I could have booked two weekends for the show and could have had everyone in the show more."

Final thoughts:

"I'm upset that this year's 8th graders won't get to be in the show next year, and I only got to work with them for one year. I'd definitely direct more shows if given the chance!"

Olivia Gnad - Stage Crew

"It was great! It was, like, the best!"

Do you want to do a musical again in high school?: Yes

Favorite part of crew: Getting to spend a lot of time with my friends

Final thoughts: "Everyone was really great. But my favorite character was probably Michael Banks."

Eric Weicht - George Banks

"I really enjoyed the whole experience, except for a few days when the Banks family was called, but we weren't needed for a while. But we got to hang out in the library, which is why me, Jack, and Anna got so close."

Favorite song(s): Brimstone and Treacle (parts 1 and 2, but 2 was probably better), Practically Perfect, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Anything Can Happen, Jolly Holiday

Favorite scenes: The scenes that made people laugh, such as the scene where he gets dragged on stage by the policeman

Characters he liked: "I really liked Robertson Ay. Jack was fun to work with and really talented. But, I have to say, Miralhi wasn't just playing Mary Poppins. She basically was Mary Poppins."

Final thoughts: "Good job to everyone who was in it. Thank you to Mr. Forrest, Ms. Benigni, and Ms. Bell. It was by far my favorite show that I've been in with an amazing cast and crew and amazing directors. I'm definitely going to miss it."

Amelia Kain - Stage Crew

"People should branch out and do new things. It's worth it."

Favorite scene/set: The rooftops of London

Favorite part of Drama Club: The community

Least favorite part: The last show; it was sad that a lot of people wouldn't really get to see each other anymore

Anything you would do differently?: Take the time to really neaten up a few things

Favorite costume: Mary's dress in Jolly Holiday

7th Grade Life Science Students Debate Diseases in Mock Trial

News article by Keira Currier

On Tuesday, February 5, students from Ms. Tessaro's 7th Grade 4000 Life Science classes put various diseases "on trial" to debate which disease was the worst. Malaria went against HIV, AFM debated Influenza, and Lyme and Ebola faced off.

Each six-person team had at least one eye witness, one expert witness, and four attorneys.

The first trial was between HIV and Malaria. HIV is a virus that infects and weakens the immune system, and Malaria can cause flu-like symptoms to anybody bitten by a mosquito that carries the disease. The HIV team best convinced the jury that HIV is a worse disease than malaria. Both teams showed great confidence while presenting their arguments.

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Above: Eric Weicht (George Banks) and Miralhi Taylor-Martin (Mary Poppins) prepare for the musical. Photo credit: Dash Vinson

Mock Trial

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The next two teams debating each other were AFM and the Influenza virus. AFM, standing for Acute Flaccid Myelitis, is a disease that affects the nervous system and can render some people completely paralyzed. The influenza virus, better known as the flu, can result in fever, chills, sore throat, and many other symptoms. Isabella Trafton, the eye witness for the influenza team, and Bella Soderstrom and Ty Walliser, the eye witnesses for AFM, all spun very detailed and convincing stories. Bella Soderstrom even used the wheelchair from the nurse's office to support her character, Lauren Kaidanovsky, who suffered from AFM and was paralyzed from the waist down. In the end, the jury decided that the Influenza Team had convinced them that the flu was worse than AFM.

In the third trial, the Ebola team debated the Lyme team. Ebola is a virus that can lead to severe bleeding, organ damage, and, in some cases, death. The tick-borne illness, Lyme, can cause a rash around the bitten area and flu-like symptoms. Both teams presented strong and thoughtful points. After the trial, the jury determined that Lyme disease was worse than Ebola.

The mock-court ended the day with an exciting trial between the other Malaria and HIV teams. Both teams in this trial had the jury so convinced that the trial actually ended in a tie.

This tie perfectly represents Ms. Tessaro's thoughts on this year's Mock Trial. She reported that not a single person in any of this year's trials came unprepared. The fourth trial just happened to show this fact the best as neither team came out on top. She thought this year's 4000

science classes worked very hard to come up with convincing arguments for their trials. She is very proud of every single student who competed.

Congratulations to everyone who did mock trial on their successes and impressive knowledge of their complicated illnesses.



Above: Malaria expert witness Lizzie Szuba presents her testimony to the judges.
Photo credit: Dash Vinson



Above: AFM attorneys Aidan Park, John Szuba, and Grant Irving wait for the start of the trial.
Photo credit: Dash Vinson

Valentine's Day Gift Ideas

Horoscope by Loren Barnes

- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): A purse
- Aquarius (Jan.20 - Feb.18): A tree house
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20): An Ed Sheeran concert
- Aries (March 21 - April 19): A ring
- Taurus (April 20 - May 20): A scarf
- Gemini (May 21 - June 20): A pet
- Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Earrings
- Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22): Sunglasses
- Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): A book
- Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): Roses
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): A bracelet
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): A vacation

An Audience Member Reacts to *Mary Poppins Jr.*

Editorial by Ty Walliser

Quaker Valley Middle School's production of *Mary Poppins* was extremely well done, and everyone who was acting or in the stage crew should be proud of themselves. Mr. Forrest did a great job directing the play, and all of the high school assistants did a great job, too.

My favorite parts of the musical:

- The stage setup: The stage scenery was well done, including the painting of the stairs and Michael and Jane had actual beds.
- The acting: All of the actors in the play spoke clearly and showed great acting.

My favorite characters:

- Mary Poppins (Miralhi Taylor-Martin)
- George Banks (Eric Weicht)
- Bert (Braedan Steffey)
- Miss Andrew, the "Evil Nanny" (Bella Soderstrom)

One thing I would change:

- The microphone would sometimes crack while people said their lines.



Student Council Hosts “Dancing through the Decades”

News article by Sarah Johnson

Quaker Valley Middle School Student Council switched up the usual school dance by sponsoring “Dancing through the Decades.” On Friday, February 8 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the QVMS auditorium, multi award-winning DJ Joshua Walker played music from different decades.

FOOD: Student Council added pizza (\$2) to the food options. Many students enjoyed this addition. The dance served ice cream (\$3 for 1 scoop or \$5 for unlimited) flavors Superhero, which is a fruity mix, and Birthday Bash, which is a classic birthday cake flavor. There were many types of candy (around \$1-\$2), and I saw many students buying 5-10 pieces of candy.

MUSIC: This dance featured bright and colorful flashing lights and music that changed every half an hour to a new decade. While people who are sensitive to flashing lights may not have enjoyed the light display, the dance theme gave the dance more variety than previous dances. The variety of music kept people dancing, even if people would at times stop and pause when they didn't at first recognize the song. Overall, it was very fun hearing new songs.



The “Sleeper” Bowl

Editorial by Alexis Moran

Super Bowl LIII was the most boring Super Bowl. Almost no action occurred until the end of the game when the Patriots scored a touchdown.

The Patriots won the game with a final score of 13-3. Both teams' defenses played so well that it made it challenging for either team to score, thus making the game boring.

In the first quarter, the Patriots started with the ball, but the first pass the Patriots threw was intercepted by the Rams. This excitement was short lived as the Patriots then got the ball back. Shortly after the Patriots got the ball, they nearly made a touchdown with 6 minutes and 30 seconds left in the first quarter. The Patriots called a second time out but missed a field goal.

To start the second quarter, the Patriots made a 42-yard field goal, making the score 3-0 Patriots. The only other moment of excitement from the second quarter was when the Rams got called for a flag because they had too many players on the field. The first half ended with a score of still 3-0 Patriots.

The only action in the third quarter occurred when the Rams got the ball and made a field goal, tying the game 3-3.

The fourth quarter began as the first Super Bowl ever to have no touchdowns in the first three quarters. The Patriots finally did make a touchdown in the fourth quarter, making it 10-3 Patriots. With one minute and 47 seconds left and inches to go until a touchdown, the Patriots settled for a field goal. A few moments later, the Rams attempted to make a field goal but missed, making the Patriots the Super Bowl 53 champions.

Left: 7th and 8th grade students take a break from dancing to pose for a photo. Photo credit: Alexis Moran

You Should Watch: YouTuber “Pewdiepie”

Review by Ryan James

Felix “Pewdiepie” Kjellberg is a Swedish YouTuber who currently has the most subscribed YouTube channel with over 80 million subscribers based all around the world. Calling his fan base “The 9 Year Old Army,” his comedic shows are for any age group. Within his channel Pewdiepie hosts 4 shows: Pew News, Lwiay, Meme Review, and You Laugh You Lose. Pew News is a current events news show with a comedic twist covering the latest happenings on the internet from various sources of media. Lwiay is a review of posts on the platform Reddit. Meme Review is ranking of the latest Internet memes. YLYL (You Laugh You Lose) is where Pewdiepie reacts to a variety of clips while not trying to laugh. In total, Pewdiepie is an entertaining and funny YouTuber for a variety of viewers.

You Should Play: Paper.io 2

Review By Koll Severson

The object of the game is to cover the map and get as many kills as possible. You start at 0.06 and can build to 100%. You can get more skins by killing, covering the map, or even reviving. These skins include cars, planes, and a rubber duck. With certain skins, your area also changes patterns. When you become king and have the most area, you get a gold crown on your head. As you take over more and more of the map, more people will try to overtake you. When attacking others, take little chunks at a time, and chip away when they aren't there to fight back. If you make a circle around someone and complete it, you can defeat that person. Just be careful you don't hurt yourself by touching your own trail!

Underneath

Poem by Stevin Wallace

Underneath everyone's skin
 There's a little flower.
 Waiting to be free -
 To see the sun.
 No matter what color
 The skin is,
 There's a delicate flower
 Beneath it.
 Waiting to be found,
 And loved.
 Waiting to be led,
 To brighter days.

But deep down,
 The flower believes that
 However hard he wishes,
 However long he waits,
 He will not be freed from
 his dark dingy prison
 The flower will always be stuck -
 Covered up by layers of rubbery
 skin.
 Never to see the sun -
 Ever.

Yet the flower still chooses to hope,
 And remain patient,
 For what the flower doesn't know is
 that one day,
 The walls of its jail
 Will shrivel away,
 Allowing the sun's rays -
 To finally -
 shine down -
 on the flower's -
 Pale petals.
 The flower doesn't know that he too
 will be
 As free as the rushing wind that
 surrounds the World.
 Free to do whatever the little flower
 wants.
 The little flower doesn't know all
 this,
 Yet he continues to
 Hope,
 Wish,
 And wait.

The Moment

Poem by Alexis Moran

The sound of the tides rolling in
 The smell of salt swirling through the
 wind
 The feeling of tiny grains between
 my toes
 The taste of a cold sugary sweet
 The sight of water going on for miles

A million thoughts
 A million words
 but nothing can describe this moment
 nothing

A single seashell washed to shore
 smooth
 large
 and oh so perfect

One seashell
 One thought
 One word

Would You Survive the Battle of Hogwarts?

Quiz by Stevin Wallace

Keep track of your answers!

Your favorite Harry Potter character is:

- a. Hermione Granger
- b. Ron Weasley
- c. Harry Potter
- d. He Who Must Not Be Named

Your favorite class at Hogwarts is:

- a. All of them!
- b. Charms
- c. Transfiguration
- d. Defense Against the Dark Arts

Your least favorite Harry Potter Book is:

- a. I loved them all!
- b. The Second Book, *The Chamber of Secrets*
- c. The Fifth Book, *The Order of the Phoenix*
- d. The last book, *The Deathly Hallows*

Who would you most likely be friends with?

- a. Luna Lovegood
- b. Neville Longbottom
- c. Ginny Weasley
- d. Draco Malfoy

Which wizard food would you love to try?

- a. Chocolate Frogs
- b. Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans
- c. Firewhiskey
- d. Cauldron Cakes

Which character shouldn't have died?

- a. Doby or Tonks
- b. Fred or Lupin
- c. Sirius or Dumbledore
- d. Snape or Mad Eye Moody

Which house are you in?

- a. Ravenclaw
- b. Hufflepuff
- c. Gryffindor
- d. Slytherin

If you chose mostly:

- a. You survived! With your amazing wits and quick thinking, you survived and managed to save some of your friends!
- b. You died. You fought strong and hard, but, in the end, a killing curse caught you off guard.
- c. You survived! You managed to kill several Death Eaters and fought alongside the one and only, Harry Potter!
- d. You survived! But, since you were a Death Eater, you were taken to Azkaban soon after the battle.

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