

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Night Live

Lagniappe 2016 is ready for its 72nd curtain call
by Rachel Melancon



Margo Flynn wheels Josh Brethauer on stage at the top of the show | Byrne

Lagniappe is no longer under construction as the show dates are Oct. 6, 7, and 9. Each show has the same cast, so regardless of the night, the audience will experience the same performances. "It's [a show] by my incredibly talented peers who all want to work with each other," said senior head costume designer Sally Rubin. "We all want to put on the best show." The board members are selected months before the show begins, in the spring of the previous school year. Members work throughout the summer to prep for the much anticipated performance. Actors are selected later in the process since auditions are held a few days before school starts. The show has a total of 26 cast members, 10 crew members,

and 16 costume crew members. There are also three heads in charge of the entire show. Writers are responsible for the overall foundation of the show. They create scenes and write scripts. Junior assistant head writer Beth Wall decided to join Lagniappe because she has always loved sketch comedy. "I wanted to improve my skills as a writer," said Wall. "Each writer initially comes up with the idea. The head writer and I approve or decline their idea. If approved, they continue to write their

scene," she explained. "The head writer and I also write our own skits." Writers come up with ideas by thinking about the unique things at New Trier. Senior Head Writer Sarah Africk started brainstorming ideas long before the show began. "It helps to have the writing staff because you get lots of ideas and you can see if the ideas are funny," she said. The theme of this year's show is "Under Construction." Although the title relates to the school construction, most skits are not related to it. Most focus on how a person

changes throughout high school. They chose the overall theme of "Under Construction" because it represented what students would relate with. "We wanted to focus on the changes that have happened within the school," said Africk. The skits have a different format this year. There are more scenes in the show; therefore, each skit must be shorter. "I think that the show will be a lot funnier this year," said Wall. "The cast is great." Scenes include the health class experience common to all sophomores, as well as skits focused on the Tinkle Times and the rowing team. "I cannot wait to see Lagniappe," shared senior Cameron Coughlin. "It's always super funny." Many members of the crew have been a part of Lagniappe since the beginning of high school. Rubin has designed costumes for the show since freshman year. "Everyone in the company is here because they want to be," she said. "It is a second home." The staff and cast must work closely together each day. "It is difficult to be working so

closely with peers for such an extended period," explained Rubin. "Tensions rise as people make sure their job was done correctly." The costume crew designed and created 140 costumes for the 26 cast members, which breaks down to 5-6 costumes per person. They also designate people backstage to ensure that each costume gets to its assigned cast member. Additionally, the crew must confirm that each costume correctly fits each cast member. Members work each day after school at rehearsals from 3:30 to 6:00. They also work on Saturdays from 9:30 to 4:30. The cast must learn the lines and dance moves, and block scenes with the director and assistant director. Head board members are in charge of the entire show. They were selected in early spring and picked the other members of the board. They facilitate and run the show, confirming that every part of the show is properly executed. "I can't wait to see how this year's show will go. I'm excited to see it come to life," said Africk.

Director Nancy Meyers returns to her trademark style with "The Intern"



Hathaway and De Niro share a laugh over business | theinternmovie.com

As in most of her films, Meyers creates likeable characters
by Carly Travis

Nancy Meyers has done it again. If you've seen any of the writer/director's films, you know the gist: picturesque apartments, ideal careers, and an Anna Wintour approved wardrobe. "It's Complicated" was filmed in sunny Santa Barbara and Meryl Streep lived in the most coveted ranch. Meyers also did "Parent Trap." Remember that estate in Napa Valley or the 3-story town house in London? The director's taste is impeccable and she didn't skimp on "The Intern." All of the above was applied and perfected in Meyers' latest flick. In the movie, Anne Hathaway plays Jules Ostin, founder of a successful e-commerce site, owner of everyone's dream Brooklyn brownstone, and mom to the daughter who delivers the cute one-liners. We all know the brown-eyed beauty as Princess of Genovia in "The Princess Diaries" and watched her shrink, sing, and sweep the Academy

Awards for Les Miserables, but this character felt more down to earth. "Annie," which is how Meyers refers to Hathaway in an interview with Joanna Goddard (resident Brooklyn mom and writer of the popular blog "Cup of Jo"), takes on this role with consciousness and humility. She is not seen as the villain that most female boss ladies are portrayed as in films. She wasn't wearing shoulder pads or a tight bun at the nape of her neck either. As viewers, that's what we're used to, Meyers explained. Hathaway continues to defy stereotypes in the film. Her characters nods towards modern feminist issues, but not in an overdone way. We don't hear a monologue about how women are treated unequally from men in the workplace in every scene. However, the disparity is relevant. Meyers deliberately puts a woman in charge in the office and a man in charge in the home, an uncomfortable concept for our culture. We see this conflict play out throughout the movie proving that the stiletto wearing mom (Hathaway) isn't so perfect. Humility is key when dealing with any character who's in a place of power. When we hear Hathaway talk

herself down to earth, she becomes less alienated and more aligned with her audiences personalities. Needless to say, co-star Robert De Niro (whom Hathaway admitted she now refers to as "Bob" in an interview on "Live with Kelly and Michael") plays a big part of grounding his colleague. De Niro plays the very prompt, very classic Ben Whittaker who Hathaway hires as part of their senior internship program (senior as in citizen, not high school or college). Side note: how clever is that! Who else to thank than the brilliance of Nancy Meyers. Anyway, De Niro acts in a way he's never acted before. We know him as the mobster side kick in "Goodfellas" as well as the Eagle's fan and father in "Silver Lining's Play Book," among countless other roles. In "The Intern," De Niro is quiet. In fact, he doesn't need to say much; his wrinkled facial expressions say it all. As Hathaway's intern in the film, he teaches her patience and understanding all while listening, something that we can all practice in our daily lives. De Niro is kind and sensitive, yet instills a good sense of humor throughout the movie. As someone who is usually turned off by movies starring those over 70, I was pleasantly surprised. Well, it's hard not to like any movie starring "Bob," but Meyers creates a senior citizen who has so much more to him than society wants to give him. He's retired but not content, widowed but still hopeful. This lightness is refreshing in an older character, making him relatable to an audience of any age. Many films rely on common conflicts: heartbreak, drug and alcohol abuse, or crazy wives who plot their own kidnapping, only to make their unforgivingly hot husbands go mad. But Nancy Meyers doesn't need to abide by Hollywood standards. She knows that good writing and timeless, versatile actors is all you need. She's kept her classic aesthetic throughout her career and I applaud her for that.

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**Cermak, T. (2009). Impact of Marijuana on Children and Adolescents. California Society of Addiction Medicine. Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Dept. of Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).