

First outdoor performance draws in “magical” feeling

New Trier’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” breathes life into a classic

by Katie Kim

The Shakespearian classic “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is a comedic play about the power of magic in roles of love and the danger of relationships.

The story revolves around three different groups: the “lovers,” the “mechanicals,” and the “fairies.” The “lovers” are the main focus of the play. It’s a standard love story, there is forbidden love between two characters, Lysander and Hermia. Demetrius is arranged to be married to Hermia. The final lover, Helena, is in love with Demetrius.

Puck, a fairy, casts a spell on these lovers to make them fall in love with each other. However, this is essentially a trick because the wrong people fall in love with each other. The other fairies try to correct this mistake throughout the play and it ultimately gets resolved.

The “mechanicals” are putting on a play for the arranged marriage and they feel Puck’s wrath when their main actor gets turned into a donkey.

In the end, everything works out.



Seniors Albie Smith, Anna Pellar, and Joe Borushek react in New Trier’s first outdoor performance | Lois Bernstein

The “lovers” fall in love with the right people, the “fairies” make everything right, and the “mechanicals” go on with their show. It’s a charming story and the actors did a fantastic job of portraying an amazing play.

Yet again, the New Trier Fine Arts cast and crew put 100% into their work and gave the crowd

nothing short of a professional show.

The play was originally set in the mid 1590s, but New Trier put a Harlem Renaissance 1920’s twist to it, which added a unique flair to the play and appealed to a wider audience.

The performances took place in the amphitheater located outside of the school building

in an attempt to achieve the feel of original Shakespearian plays, which were performed at the Globe theater.

Despite the difficult Shakespearean language, cast did an excellent job, not only mastering their lines, but also capturing the feeling behind them. It was clear that, despite

performing a story written centuries before today’s time, each character didn’t simply memorize lines, but understood what they meant.

Even the cold weather couldn’t put a damper on the performance. Although it was only 53° outside, the show quickly distracted the audience from the chill.

The entire ambience of the show was magical, as it should be. The makeup, the wardrobe, the setting and art made me feel as if I was truly watching the works of the mystical fairies characterized in the play.

As I watched the performance, I came to the realization that the New Trier Fine Arts crew not only paid attention to the main components of the show but they perfected every detail.

One of my favorite parts of the show was when the magical fairies were introduced. In this scene, and every other one, the crew made it extremely easy for the audience to understand the setting of the story.

Until this show, I have never seen a New Trier produced performance. Frankly, I walked into the amphitheater with my expectations low. I hadn’t expected to fall in love with the art of Shakespeare and the cast who so proudly and confidently depicted the storyline.

Science Olympiad blasts off

New Trier’s premier science team places first in state

by Emily Wong

On Saturday, Apr. 29, Science Olympiad took first at state in a tight race against rival Adlai E. Stevenson High School.

At 92 and 104 points, respectively, the teams were only 12 points apart, with 3rd place Neuqua Valley coming in at 252 points.

The team expected the results to be close, as they’d come in 2nd to Stevenson for the past two years after last winning state in 2014.

They had seen some promising signs earlier in the season, beating their rival more than in past years. However, they still didn’t have the title locked down.

“A lot of people were predicting that it was going to happen, but I wasn’t really sure,” said co-head Jason Yang. “I knew that the whole team really had to perform well in order for it to happen.”

The Science Olympiad administrators announced and distributed individual awards first, leaving teams to predict the final results based on those. “I knew it was possible we could win, but Stevenson was medaling in more events than us,” said Yang. “I was really in shock when I heard them announce Stevenson as 2nd. Everyone audibly gasped.”

The rest of the team was in equal disbelief. “I was kind of in a daze,” said junior Tommy Okun.

Junior Jojo Farina agreed, “It was kind of surprising because we were really close with Stevenson, and it was really tight.”

The victory was even more momentous considering it was the first time winning state as a team for most members.

“It was really powerful to see the whole team up there and to know that we’d done it. It was something we said we’d do for



Science Olympiad pictured on April 29th after winning first at state | Howe

three years, but it never happened while I was on the team,” said Yang.

Although their events turned out well, the team faced some challenges going into the competition. “One of the biggest issues is that it was right before AP tests,” said Farina. “It was really hard to balance, because Science Olympiad is something you do have to study for.”

Luckily, they had time to study over that weekend, so they managed to pull through without any major problems.

Following their win, New Trier will be heading to nationals May 20 to compete at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. They’re hoping to improve from their 14th place finish in last year’s competition.

“Realistically speaking, we hope to get top ten or even top five, but it’s not out of the question to shoot for 1st at nationals because we have such a strong team,” said Yang.

“The team that won last year, Mira Loma, had a lot of similar patterns to our team. They were very strong in all their events consistently, and I see that in this team. Their team was also very close-knit, and that’s

something I see in this year’s team.”

Even after their impressive performance at state, the team knew they had preparation to do before nationals. “In two of my events we got 1st, but in one we got 7th, so I want to make sure I practice a bit more,” said Farina.

There’s also other activities at nationals that the team is looking forward to.

“There’s always the opening ceremony on Friday night, and there’s also the swap meet where you get to bring stuff from Illinois and swap it with people from other states,” said Yang.

Although NT Science Olympiad has gone to nationals every year since 2002, they’re excited to go into the competition with the confidence of winning state.

“It was a great way to end senior year, especially being one of the leaders of the team now,” said Yang. “We also have a hashtag going-- #NTSO2017firstatnats.” Updates of the team’s final competition will be posted on their Instagram, @new_trier_scioly.

Spirit award chosen

Lauren Pingad chosen as 10th spirit award recipient

by Darcie Kim

If you hear a loud and enthusiastic cheer reverberating through the halls, there is a good chance that it is Lauren Pingad, the winner of this year’s spirit award.

Pingad was recently voted the winner of the 10th annual spirit award for her outstanding support and embodiment of Trevian spirit.

Pingad has consistently demonstrated her representation of New Trier spirit, and she can easily be characterized as one of the most supportive students in the entire student body.

Despite her winning personality, she was surprised to win this award.

“I really didn’t expect to win, so I’m very thankful. I’m thankful for everyone who supported me by voting, and I’m also thankful for everyone who continues to support me,” said Pingad.

She is also an avid participant in extracurricular activities. While she was a captain of the fencing team as a senior foil fencer this year, she believes that her major accomplishments throughout high school have been through Yearbook and Track and Field.

Pingad has been a part of Yearbook since freshman year. She became a managing editor her junior year and a co-editor in chief for her senior year.

Her dedication is undebatable, staying after school and putting in extra hours with the other co-editor in chief to produce what she believes is the best yearbook New Trier has seen.

She also credits track and field for teaching her one the most significant values of her high school career, perseverance.

“I have been part of the varsity team since freshman year. Every year has its own challenges, whether it be intense workouts or injuries. Last year my coach taught me that

‘you have to become uncomfortable in order to get stronger’ and that really hit home,” said Pingad.

Students and staff alike credit Pingad for her passionate and supportive nature, and examples of this spirit can be seen even in everyday occurrences.

“Whenever I saw her at fencing practice, she was energetic and positive. She was also so genuinely involved with helping her peers and always came to watch and cheer on her teammates,” said senior Maddy Tung.

The spirit award is given to one member of the senior class every year who displays enthusiasm for school spirit, enjoys attending school events, and supports their peers.

This award is unique in that it requires recognition from both staff and students

The award was started ten years ago when the current pep club sponsor Bridget Butterly joined the club. It was modeled after an award that existed at her own high school, and the process remains the same.

Any member of the staff can nominate a senior who they feel represents the spirit of New Trier. The students who have the most nominations are then put on the ballot for the senior class.

This year five students, Matt Gallo, Katherine Gjertsen, Charlie Hines, Mame O’Grady, and Lauren Pingad were those nominated.

During the week of April 17, voting was open for a few days, and seniors could elect the winner through an online ballot.

As the winner, Pingad will have her name and handprint on the spirit award wall of the pep club room, along with all of the past winners.

She will also receive a \$500 scholarship and a plaque during the senior awards night.

Butterly believes that every student who has previously won deserves the recognition this award brings, as they have all represented the true meaning of being a Trevian.