

“The Wolves”: first black box theatre play



Elena Cata (left), Elise Reehl (middle), Ella Denman (right) rehearse | Kim

This soccer play portrays the daily struggles of teenage girls

by Darcie Kim

“The Wolves” celebrates the opening of the new Hayes McCausland Theatre, and will be the first production performed by New Trier students in the new black box space.

“The Wolves” follows the season of a high school girl’s indoor club soccer team, and it is unique in that each scene is the team’s warm-up before a weekly game. As a result, the audience is left with the task of discerning the implications of what happens beyond the stadium.

“Each scene is a different week in the team’s season. Each week reveals shifts in loyalty, status, and cohesiveness,” said director Nina Lynn.

The play gives an accurate representation of how teenage girls are perceived and how they express their identities in society. Nearly all of the dialogue is between the teammates; often the subject of the conversation is so applicable to life at New Trier that during rehearsal, cast members did not know if the performers were having a side conversation or rehearsing their lines

at times.

The language and themes of the play are not for everyone, but it’s one of the most honest representation of all that is wonderful and alarming about teenage girls that I’ve seen,” said Lynn.

Senior Elise Hall said the characters in ‘The Wolves’ are each intricate. An audience member would have to see the play several times before really coming to grips with every nuance that each of them presents. “I think any teenage girl watching would be able to relate to at least one of the teammates,” she said.

It is worth noting that because the play’s author wrote with the intention of keeping an honest representation of high school dynamics, the language is hard to ignore. It has been characterized as “fast paced” and “gritty”, and is definitely more explicit than previous plays performed at New Trier.

“‘The Wolves’ helps to illustrate the positive effect and strong impact of positive female role models in theater. It is not just an incredibly well written show, it is also a show that is truthful with a fantastic range of characters,” said senior Kathryn Braeseke.

The themes running throughout the play reflect the conflicting nature of growing up as a teenage girl. While friendship, unity, and teamwork all play an influential role in shaping the play, brutally honest conversations between the girls and underlying

societal issues provide the audience with an incredibly accurate and well rounded representation.

“I think that how in-depth and detailed each character is shows that everyone is their own person and can be whoever they want to be,” said senior Mack Hall.

Another exciting aspect of the play is that it is the first production that will be performed in the new black box theater.

A black box theater is a simple and somewhat unadorned indoor performance space that has black walls and a level floor.

Its simplicity allows for versatility, especially since the space offers the ability to transform a scene through flexible staging and alternate lighting configurations.

This unique theater also serves the greater purpose of “connecting the audience to the performers in a purposeful and uninterrupted way,” according to Stagingconcepts.

Cast members of “The Wolves” expressed their anticipation for performing in this space.

“The new theater makes this play come together much better than if it were in a usual theater. Being in the Hayes-McCausland theater allowed us to put seating on both sides of the stage, which is a first for many of the people working on the play,” said Hall.

Elise Hall described this experience as “unbelievable,” and said that she could not “believe how lucky [the cast is] to be able to perform such a cool show in such a professional theater.”

The show premieres on Dec. 14 and will run until Dec. 16. The entire cast is optimistic about the performance, and believe that the experience of rehearsing for weeks together will come together for a cohesive and successful show.

“I am so lucky to work with this amazing group of girls, my co rehearsal assistant, stage manager, and the crew to bring this show to life. Like this soccer team, we all have to work together in order to be successful,” said Braeseke.

“The Wolves” contains mature subject matter and language. It is not recommended for students under 14 or sensitive viewers.

“Urinetown” uses comedy to criticize real life issues

The frosh-soph musical portrays real life conflicts through comedic satire

by Katie Kim

The frosh-soph musical, “Urinetown”, will be playing in the Cornog auditorium, on Wednesday, Dec. 6 to Saturday, Dec. 9.

“Urinetown”, written by Greg Kotis and lyrics by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann, is a satirical comedic musical, about a water shortage and a 20 year drought that eventually causes the government to ban public toilets, and add a proliferation of paid public toilets.

However, the twist is that all of these public toilets are owned by one company called the Urine Good Company.

The consequences of breaking the public toilet rules include being sent to a mysterious area called “Urinetown.” Eventually getting sick of the ridiculous restriction on one’s need to pee, the protagonist leads a revolt so that every individual has the right to pee “wherever you like, whenever you like, for as long as you like, and with whomever you like.”

Sophomore and antagonist of the show Elias Wachtel said that “Urinetown” is a satire of the music theatre genre, life, modern politics, but also more than that. The show has dark subject matter and themes.

“So dark, in fact, that I think Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis knew they couldn’t tackle these issues head on. The show uses the satire and the comedy to give us a view of the present and the future that, while there are absurd aspects, is rooted in realism,” he said.

“Ideally, ‘Urinetown’ should be extremely entertaining but should also leave the audience thinking that ‘their way of life is unsustainable’, as Lockstock says in the show,” said Wachtel.

In the same regards, sophomore Reilly Oh said “‘Urinetown’ is a satire on not only the concept of musicals itself, but also our governmental system. It’s a show that makes fun of

almost every musical pre 2001, and also the state of the society we live in.”

“I feel that ‘Urinetown’ brings out tons of humor. Not only is it very entertaining, but it also brings the message of leadership and confidence. It represents the true conflicts of society,” said sophomore Rachel Miller.

“Mr. Malouf, our director, really wanted us to not only understand the lines that we are saying, but also the reason why they were written. Whether it’s a simple Les Mis joke, or one about systemic oppression of the lower class. Especially with our current political climate, I think that a good message is one that inherits the ridiculousness and hypocrisy of our political system,” said Oh.

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Another insight of the musical is the problematic state of our environment. Sophomore Spencer Rosin said “I think the message is about the environment and how we are treating it poorly. If we keep going down the road we are on, it is going to get worse.”

“It portrays is that the government is corrupt and is not honest because of the power they have. I also think this musical was used to make fun of the stereotypes of musical theatre and try to open people’s eyes to how it should change,” said Rosin.

“It was a wonderful experience to be a part of a cast, and it was amazing to spend time with old friends, while also making new ones. The rehearsal was long and hard, but it brought us all closer together” said Wachtel.

Where are New Trier water bottles now?

Checking in on one of the biggest fads from last year

by David Heiman

Almost a year after New Trier spent roughly \$25,000 on reusable New Trier themed Nalgene water bottles, the question remains: Where are all the water bottles now?

“I lost my water bottle a week after getting it,” said senior Mateo Blair. Another senior, Seth Alexander, said “I also lost my water bottle like a couple days after getting it.”

This seems to be a common trend among here with students losing their water bottles after the first week, if not the first day or two.

Although some criticized the decision to drop \$25,000 on water bottles, there is a group of people who still use their bottles. Senior Lucas Gottshall said, “I tend to get thirsty in class and it’s very convenient to have it around. A lot of people use other water bottles that they had before the New Trier one so this one was not



Water bottles were facilitated by the Environmental Club last year | Kim

totally needed.” The water bottles still in use can not only be seen filled with water, but covered in stickers. These stickers, some bought at New Trier, some bought online, and some the classic whale from Vineyard Vines,

cover the water bottles, almost to the point where you can’t even see the New Trier logo on the water bottle anymore.

We remember the day we got the water bottles in advisery. The smiles on student’s faces. All the potential

that could of come from it. When we got to first period, we had them on our desks, filled to the top with water. We all promised to keep them and wrote our name on them with black sharpie.,

As the day went on, you could see one water bottle after another on an abandoned desk or table. That was only the beginning.

When the next day came, the amount of water bottles in the school were cut by almost half, if not more. As the next few days came and went, it became more normal to not have the water bottle than it did to have one.

We knew at that point, the water bottles had just become another fad in the New Trier lifestyle. They weren’t any more important in most people’s lives than Silly Band, Oovoo, or Yik Yak.

While most students don’t use their water bottles anymore, I’m here to tell you why using the water bottle is a good thing.

First off, water bottles are very handy in school. Everyone has been through the struggle in class when you’re dying of thirst but you can’t

get water. An easy solution to that is having a filled New Trier water bottle.

Second, they are free to all of us. New Trier, even if they did pay a lot of money, still bought a water bottle for every student at school. While many people do complain about the money spent, we didn’t pay for them (directly), so being gifted a beautiful New Trier water bottle isn’t a bad thing and not something that should be taken for granted.

Lastly, there is not a struggle to find a place to fill up a water bottle in the school. Every class room is about 10-15 feet from the nearest water fountain, and every water fountain has a dispenser that can fill up the bottles.

These dispensers also save plastic bottles from being thrown away and it makes sure that we can save several gallons of water from going into plastic water bottles.

Though most of you won’t listen, the New Trier water bottles are a good thing. We got a free water bottle and helped the environment along the way.