



# here's to us, who's like **US**

## THEATRE DIRECTOR JOSH DENNING DOUBLE-CASTS FALL MUSICAL REVUE

From August to October, the theatre department spent hours dancing, learning music and building sets, preparing to open their fall musical, "Sondheim on Sondheim," a revue of the life and works of Stephen Sondheim, "the father of the modern musical."

"Since it was a revue, it was different from the productions we usually do because it didn't follow a specific plot," senior **Jackson Holtkamp** said. "Instead, it used Sondheim's work to illustrate a biographical view of his life."

Director Joshua Denning chose this musical with the hope to teach a people a lot of different things.

"I hoped that the musicianship skills of everyone would grow," Denning said. "This goes for all of the actors as well as the orchestra. The music was very difficult for everyone. The music was nonstop, and close to opening, we were still fine-tuning and rehearsing things."

Denning, along with assistant choir director Ammon Taylor and teacher Paul Pew, spent the summer working with students one-on-one to prepare them for opening night.

"The show taught me to cherish my experiences and all of the lessons I was being taught," junior **Atley Brown** said. "What I learned the most was vocal technique, and I improved my singing skills all around. It

stretched me to do things I wouldn't usually do. I had never sung anything even slightly operatic before this production. It taught me to be confident in hitting high notes too."

The department put on eight performances of the musical, splitting the shows between two casts.

"Because of the momentum of the musical theatre program, and how much it has grown in the past years, we have more talent than we have ever had," Denning said of the decision to double-cast the show. "It doesn't feel right for me to keep so much of the talent in the ensemble, so that double cast allowed for more of it to be showcased."

Even with the double casting, students were still able to form connections with one another.

"Stephen Sondheim says that 'doing a show is like having a family' and the song we sing ends with 'here's to us, who's like us, damn few,'" Brown said. "There was rarely a time when I would sing that and wouldn't be choked up or crying. It was the most rewarding thing ever to be yourself, loving what you are doing with all of your close friends next to you."

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## in the **SPOTLIGHT**

### ACTORS SHINE IN SONDHEIM SOLOS



**MEGAN HUDSON**  
"I played two different characters," sophomore **Megan Hudson** said. "My favorite was my solo with Leslie Kretzer because I am a sassy, and the number was sassy which allowed me to connect with it more." *Photo by Madison Olsen.*



**DYLAN TACKER**  
"Tom Wolpat is an older sort of fellow who has bitter feelings towards things which resonates with the songs that he sings," senior **Dylan Tacker** said. "Overall, with his age, he has more experience with the world so he has a lot of wisdom to share." *Photo by Ashley Chamberlain.*



**ARTURO HERNANDEZ**  
"Sondheim on Sondheim was one of the hardest shows I have ever done and it was very challenging but we did it and it was amazing. I played three parts." *Photo by Ashley Chamberlain.*



**MEG WILLIMONT**  
"It was super exciting getting to be a principal for the first time," senior **Meg Willimont** said. "I remember seeing a show when I was in middle school and being astounded with how talented everyone was and now I was the one on stage." *Photo by Madison Olsen.*



**EZRA HANKIN**  
"I played an assassin and I was trying to justify the use of guns," senior **Ezra Hankin** said. "It was a fun role to play because I really got to act like someone who is so far from who I am. The show ended up great and I am happy I got to be apart of it" *Photo by Ashley Chamberlain.*



**ATLEY BROWN**  
"Musical theatre is the most rewarding experience and with every show I learn something new and rewarding," junior **Atley Brown** said. "It gives me a chance to be hundreds of different characters and myself all at the same time." *Photo by Madison Olsen.*