

Merry Murders at Montmarie

Mystery set to show in late April.

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Staff Writer

Mysterious things have been occurring at Montmarie High School in Switzerland. Family members are missing and people aren't quite as they seem.

Mystery, comedy and romance fulfill the tone of this production. *Merry Murders at Montmarie* that the RHS Theatre Department will be performing April 24-26. It will be produced and presented in the high school auditorium.

Charlie, a young American, arrives at Switzerland to take over the all-girls' school he's inherited from his aunt.

Daniel Seguin, sophomore, is playing the role of Charlie. He is extremely excited for receiving the part he auditioned for.

"Since there was no fall show this year, I'm really excited to get the theatre program back together and play one of the main characters," said Seguin.

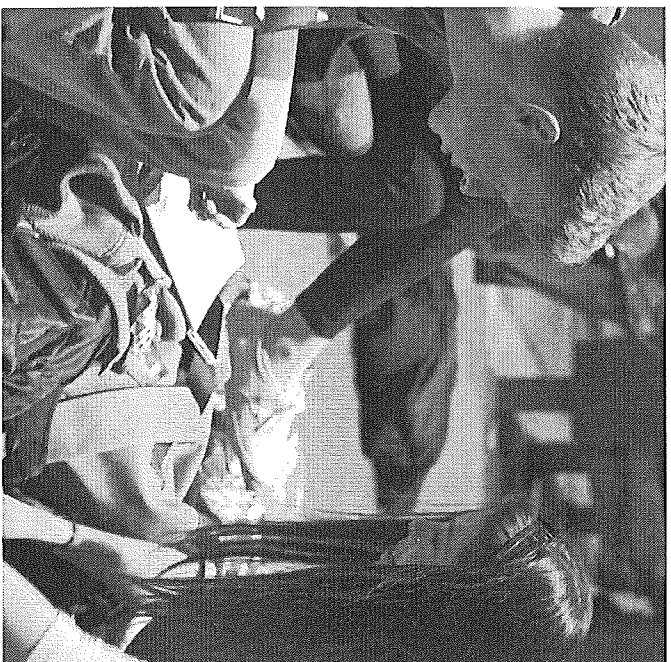
Stephanie Graham, junior, is playing the role of Lily, the school administrator. Lily is a beautiful, young instructor dedicated to her job.

"My favorite part about Lily's character is she is a responsible role model to all the students at Mont. Marie," said Graham.

Rudee, a ski instructor, is played by Max Leesch. He is a handsome, flirtatious guy that is extremely friendly. However, the audience may learn that he may not be who he portrays to be.

"Let's just say he is very secretive," said Leesch.

The basic plot of the performance is centered around the senior girls at Montmarie. Charlie's younger sister and all of her friends may be involved in something sinister.



Senior Thomas Biatore and Junior Cecily McPherson rehearse their for the upcoming play this April.

Photo Credit: RHS Yearbook

ter. It is a huge mystery to undercover.

The show is not a musical nor from a movie, so students had to dig some research out about each character to portray their parts.

"We had one rehearsal where we improved what we thought our characters would be doing before the play or outside of it," said Leesch.

Likewise, reading the script of the play to learn personality traits of characters is what these actors have been doing for the past month.

Before the show is presented to the public, Graham and Seguin shared some early news that there will be assassins and Interpol agents.

"They will have pistols, of course, and possibly gun shots will be heard if given permission," said Graham.

The show wouldn't be running as smoothly as it is if it wasn't for the drama and English 12 teacher, Ms. Goodearl.

Ms. Goodearl has a background in theatre as far back as high school.

"After high school I decided I wanted to teach it, so I began at CMU and later started helping at a middle school and became a student teacher," said Ms. Goodearl.

She chose this play after looking for a large cast and wanting something fun and enjoyable. Twenty-four students pleased her at auditions and satisfied her wanting of a larger cast.

"I looked for the students that took the time to memorize parts, their projection and loudness and also if they had inflection," said Ms. Goodearl.

A big question for many of those not involved in theatre is, how do they remember all of their lines?

According to Graham, everyone studies their parts in different ways. She, however, has a peer take her script and say the line right before hers so that she can repeat her line as a response.

Seguin likes to try to go without a script during practices.

The best advice Ms. Goodearl has for the students is to never stop reviewing them.

"Read them aloud, into mirrors, walls, friends and to remember where their blocking is on the stage," said Ms. Goodearl. Blocking is where the characters are located on the stage during specific lines.

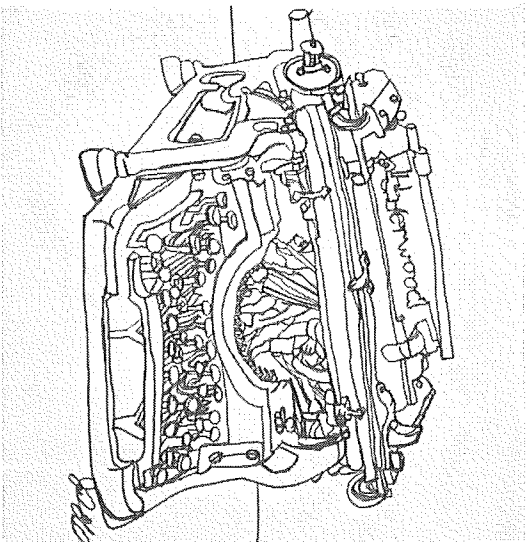
There are essentially three sets involved in the construction of the play and one doesn't move. The setting resembles a living room at an all-girl's school. There are couches, book shelves, tables, cedar chest, coat racks, plants and much more. The other two will be a surprise.

A preview show will be performed the week before the actual performance date at the art show.

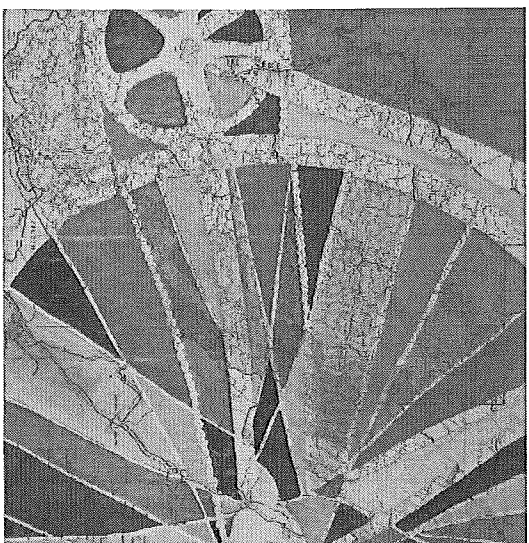
The showing times are as follows: Friday and Saturday night at 7:00 and Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

"I am so excited to hear the audience's reaction when the mystery is solved," said Graham.

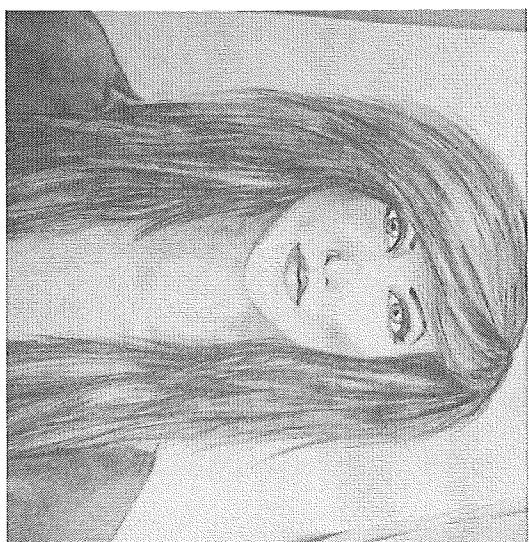
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To read more on Jaret's and Lauren's success at the Scholastic National Competition, see Joe Ber-
gen's "Richmond's Upcoming Artists" on page 2.