

Senior Actress Steps Up to Directorial Spotlight

By: Maximilian Leesch
Staff Writer

What would a movie look like without a director?

Probably not so good.

Being experienced on stage, Nichter knows what it takes to take on the role of director. "I know how things are supposed to run," she said.

Possibly worse. Hannah Nichter, a senior, has been given the opportunity to direct this year's Summer Camp show at the Richmond Aud Youth Complex.

Understanding the importance of directing, Nichter is prepared to take the responsibilities head-on and assure that this year's Summer Camp show will be performed at its fullest potential.

It's not everyday a high school student is given the task of directing a stage performance, but for someone passionate about theatre, it's a no-brainer.

the children's talent to the best of their abilities. Above all, she simply hopes that the kids involved have a great time. "I hope it's a good experience for everybody," she said.

Nichter's family members have been involved with theatre many years before she had started. When she began her high school career, she felt the need to find a school activity to latch onto. "I knew I had to get involved in high school in some way," said Nichter.

During every show Nichter's been in, she has always looked forward to 'circling up' before every performance and warming up. It is when you see all the hard work come together.

Since beginning her theatre career, every director Nichter has worked with has made a mark on how she will direct. She has been involved

with shows directed by Josiah Pankiewicz, Jason and Megan Applegate, Mitch Osadchuk, and Ms. Goodearl. Nichter said, "They influenced me to do the things I do."

Theatre has become a major force in crafting who Nichter is today. Feeling a sense of unity and companionship helped her become who she is now, as a senior. She said, "That has made me more confident."

The Aud will most likely be sticking with the Disney theme this summer, as they have been doing Disney musicals for the past several years. A few different options have been discussed, including Cinderella Kids.

Nichter hopes to learn as much as she can while directing her first production, but she is already aware of *Continued on page 5*

Relay For Life Not Able To Make it To Finish Line At RHS

By: Paige Koehn
Features Co-Editor.

Relay for Life is an event created by the American Cancer Society. Every year, more than four million people in over 20 countries participate and raise much-needed funds for cancer research.

At Relay for Life, individuals from all over the area team up with each other. For 24 hours, at least one person must be on the track. This way, people are having fun and being active—while also donating to a good cause.

Unfortunately, Relay for Life was not able to happen this year for RHS. The turnout was not as large as they expected, which led to the cancellation of the event.

This was supposed to be happening in our area on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, but the plans did not work out.

One junior at Richmond High School, Ashley Reece, tried to make

this all happen. It was her idea to bring such a great opportunity to RHS. It was all set up and almost ready to be completed, but not enough students signed up. Reece started Relay for Life at Richmond because of her love to help others.

"I wanted to start Relay for Life at our school because I thought it would be great to get others involved in such a beneficial event. I love to help others, and that is exactly what Relay for Life does," said the NHS President.

In order to get this event started in our schools, Reece had to go through a lot of preparation. Since she is the junior class President, Reece often gets to travel to other schools and learn about the programs they offer. Once she heard about Relay for Life occurring at another school, she knew it was the perfect choice.

"Before I could confirm Relay for Life was happening in our area, I had to attend various meetings to

learn more information about it. I went to these meetings with junior, Hayley Lauderbach, and sophomore, Carrie Maro. Here, they explained what it was all about and how to get others involved," said Reece.

Having this event cancelled was quite upsetting for Reece. She was looking forward for students to come together as a school.

Reece said, "I really wanted Relay for Life to happen because I was looking forward to raising money for a worthy cause. Also, I thought it would be cool to come together with other schools in the area to reach a common goal."

From this experience, Ashley Reece learned several valuable life lessons that will benefit her in the future. One important skill she learned more about was leadership.

"To get the event set up, I had to very much be a leader. I had to take responsibility for making it happen. I put out an announcement and had several posters hanging around the

On This Day

1944 - Gandhi freed from prison

1989 - Mike Tyson gets 2nd speeding ticket for drag racing in Albany NY

1949 - Tiger 2nd baseman Charlie Gehringer selected to Hall of Fame

1979 - Voyager 1 passes Jupiter

1930 - Amy Johnson takes off - first woman to fly solo from England to Australia

1961 - Alan Shepard becomes 1st American in space (aboard Freedom 7)

school. I also advocated for the cause by going to each club," said Reece. "It's a bummer that it didn't work out."

Other students that signed up for this event, such as junior Stephanie Graham, are upset that Relay for Life did not work out.

"I signed for a variety of reasons," said Graham. "Quite a few people in my life have been impacted by cancer. I wanted to be able to give back and partake in the event because I have heard so much about cancer over the years."

Graham was looking forward to being there all night and walking around the track with her friends. She was hoping she could participate in Relay for Life in memory of the loved and lost ones.

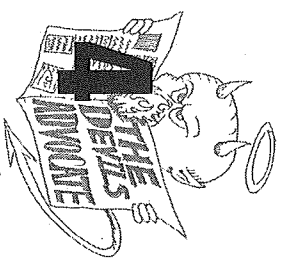
"I definitely plan on signing up again next year," said Graham. But, from this experience, Reece learned what to do and what not to do for next year's preparation. She wants to make sure that Relay for Life will for sure be happening.

"I have already starting planning for next year's Relay for Life. One thing I'm going to have to do is get the group started earlier. This year I learned about it on such short notice. Next year I will begin announcements several months before Relay for Life actually begins," said Reece.

"We did a lot of preparation this year, but people didn't sign up—we need to advertise better."

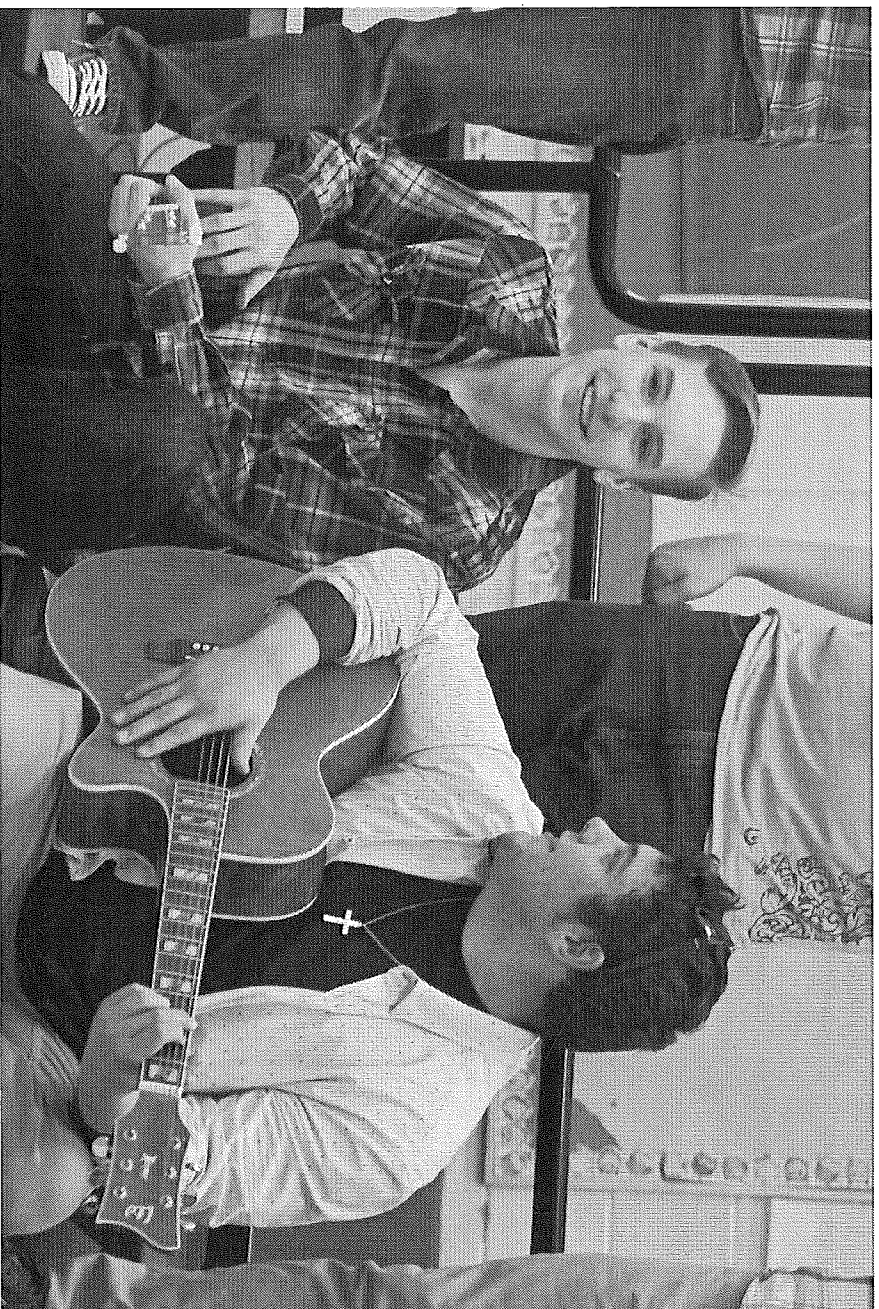
Although the event didn't work out this year, Reece is going to do whatever it takes for next year's Relay for Life to be a success.

School News



Merry Murders at Montmarie shows “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy” at EnRichmond

By: Cecily McPherson
Co-opinions editor



Zach Thomas and Anthony Hinojosa performing at EnRichmond. (Photo courtesy of RHS yearbook.)

Through the roar of the tractors and the cheers of the anxious students at a sports event, it is hard to distinguish the soft brush strokes upon canvas or the melodic voices of the artistically inclined students that reside in RHS.

Appreciation for the arts in small towns often runs short. Art students often feel forgotten when being compared to athletic peers.

However, on April 17 a special event was held at RHS.

Similar to the Arts Beats and Eats festival, this event included the following: an art auction featuring Mrs. Belf’s most ambitious students, performances from the choir, band, and theatre. Food from local businesses, such as Jets, was also provided for any hungry guests.

Because I have a role in Merry Murders at Montmarie, I attended the event, ready to perform and ready to support my friends who would be featured as well.

The Art Department, which occupied the main lobby and Mrs. Belf’s classroom, participated in the event by hanging several student pieces in the lobby. Much like an actual museum, guests were invited to stroll through the artwork, admire and potentially buy what they see.

“It’s a good way to get your name out,” sophomore Jaret Gil said. “It makes you feel pretty special if someone chooses to buy your artwork.”

Jaret, a previous scholastics winner, worked alongside another Scholastics winner, Lauren Maksymuk, to fundraise money for their New York trip, which they are taking because they earned Gold Keys in the competition.

After the event is over, the chair will be raffled off to a winner, and the two will use their earnings for their well-deserved scholastics trip.

Further down the hall, in Mrs. Lashbrook’s room, solo performances were held by students belonging to the Band or Choir. Soloist Haley Fortuna, a freshman, was given one last memorable performance singing two songs that have travelled with her throughout her year.

Haley performed “American Lullaby” for the districts and states competitions this past year, and “I Enjoy Being a Girl,” for musical theatre and ensemble.

Ranking high in both competitions has surely been an honor for Fortuna. The EnRichmond event allowed her to share these two beloved songs with her family and friends once more.

“These songs will always remain in my heart, but I’m ready to take on the challenge of learning new songs,” Fortuna said.

After watching Fortuna, and several other friends perform solo, many old and new performers gathered together and headed to the Richmond stage with a deceitful and mysterious plan in mind.

A preview of the upcoming play Merry Murders at Montmarie, was viewed by any interested bystanders.

one week before actual showtime, drama kids were aching to let the audience in on part of their ploy.

Stephanie Graham, who plays the young school instructor, said, “I think the preview show was a success. The cast performed diligently, even though we still have a few mild bugs to work out.”

I agree with Stephanie. This show will definitely keep the audience hanging on to their seats.

After removing his Montmarie attire, Daniel Seguin headed back to Mrs. Lashbrook’s room to perform with several others in the newly-founded men’s chorale.

The boys sang “I’m Yours,” by Jason Mraz. Ms. Newman, the choir teacher, has been working with the boys for just over a month now.

“We practice once a week for about an hour,” Daniel said. “We have really come a long way. We sound nice together. Our voices blend well.”

A special thanks can surely be given out to Ms. Newman for creating a group of young men that are worthy of performing next to Richmond’s ever-impressive women’s chorale.

The Jazz Band was also a new addition to Richmond’s art department this year. After several years of trying to make this class fit on the schedule, Mrs. Shack, along with several of the band students, decided to create an extracurricular for these motivated individuals instead.

The Jazz Band rehearses every Wednesday during regular band class.

Senior Beau Brockett, who is playing piano, said, “We have learned two songs: “In the Mood,” and “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy.” They are tough songs, but we’re getting through it.”

EnRichmond was the band’s first time performing before their upcoming concert. They were nervous for the event, but after seeing the results they know that there is no place they can go but up.

“I really enjoyed EnRichmond. I think we really pulled it off for as little practice as we had.”

Brockett said.

Overall, Enrichmond was a gathering of those who may not always be noticed. It was a combination of voices, and instruments, and acting, and art, all compiled to create a warm, bright atmosphere. Bystanders along with fellow students were all impressed with the inner talents that reigns within these artistic individuals.

Over the years, I can see this event growing bigger in size and becoming more elaborate. I hope to see more of the student body coming to support their friends and peers in the same way that they would support the football players or the cheerleaders.

The town should become involved in an event such as this. It is their duty to open their minds and their hearts to witness the inner creativity and imagination that these young artists cast upon them.

Richmond: a small town full of tractors and football games can also add art to its list of specialties.

EnRichmond is a good place to begin.