

## ACMA Theatre Parent Group Meeting 12/2/14

### Feedback from Coraline

- Students learned a lot during the production.
- We raised about \$230 from the donation table.
- It would be great to see cross support and more ACMA students at productions.
- There were quite a few elementary students in the audience, so perhaps our outreach to elementary schools went well.
- Note: IHOP trip is NOT a school-sanctioned/approved event. This is a student-created event, and parents need to be aware of that and responsible for transportation. We will make this clear for future productions.

### ACMA Live

- ACMA Live runs December 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. It would be great to have a parent in the box office and a back-hall monitor.
- There is an all-day Saturday rehearsal on 12/6 although there will be staggered start times for students based on their scenes. Emilia will create a schedule.
- We can seat 65 for ACMA Live.
- Tickets are \$5 and \$10 and will be available online. We can add a \$1 service charge to offset the fees. There's no parent pass available. If there is a shortage of available seats, we're encouraging parents to see the show once to allow others the chance to see it.
- Mr. Sikking is hoping that Truman will do box office again. The question was asked if Brian will help with box office again?

### Pride and Prejudice

Mr. Sikking gave a quick update on the next major production, Pride and Prejudice:

- Auditions are the week before Winter Break. Monday and Tuesday are general call. New students are encouraged to come on Monday. Callbacks are Wednesday and Thursday. Friday, the list will be posted. Middle schoolers will be encouraged to come on Monday. Not sure how many will be cast – this will be based on the budget, but it should be between 25 and 30 students involved. Rehearsals will start right after break.

- Mr. Sikking is collaborating with a costumer who worked on ACMA's production of The Great Gatsby. She will create most of the costumes for the ladies. A teacher at ACMA will work with students who are interested in helping. The costume budget will be about \$100/female student. Boys' costumes will be pulled. Lisa mentioned that it would be great to have the costumes available about 3 weeks before opening night so press photos could be taken and sent out.
- Megan will be working on the poster design again.
- The set will be basic and elegant -- not much expense. Most costs will go into costumes.
- Pride and Prejudice should do well with middle/high school girls, senior centers, churches, etc.

## **Long-term fundraising**

We discussed the need to create some long-term income (wealthy benefactor, please?!). How do we get to a point where we can be sustained through an endowment? Sean suggested that we look at Jesuit and NWCT to see how they build their process. How do they successfully raise so much money through their auction?

Some highpoints of the discussion followed:

- We need a good PR angle or a benefactor. While we might not have THE benefactor in our ACMA community, we may have contacts that can help us sustain our fundraising.
- We need to sell our program better. It's unique, and we need to spin that.
- A question was asked if we can do a benefit concert or something to raise \$? Perhaps, we could do something in the spring that involves performances.
- Mr. Sikking commented that Grant High School was effective by bringing in lots of community members through open auditions and by running the show for a longer time.
- Short-term, we could put together a donation letter/envelope to distribute during ACMA Live and 24-hour Script Writing Festival. Cedar House Media also noted that they can print larger banners.

After some discussion, it was decided that we need a separate subcommittee for fundraising. Kelly will send out an email asking for volunteers.

## **Katie's Capstone Project: Evil Dead, the Musical**

Katie McLoughlin is putting on Evil Dead, The Musical as part of her capstone project. It will be held in the Blue Box in January/early February with five shows. This is PG-13. Katie gave us an update:

- She is looking for set help, costumes, and so on. Kelly will send out the prop list.
- Katie hopes to get programs and posters printed. Kelly will help with this.
- They are going to work on a set/prop build.

- Katie asked for help with publicity. This will be marketed to high schoolers and college students. Suggestions were made to purchase Facebook ads and distribute flyers to high schools, PCC, PSU, Hawthorne area, and Mississippi neighborhood. We can get it on the calendars.

We briefly discussed that the TPG would support student efforts like this because they involve many of our students and help build our program.

### **Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in ACMA Blue Box

--Minutes submitted by Dawn Kimball