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Clark-Shawnee High School

Production of

Disney

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Book by
David Simpatico

Original Songs by
Matthew Gerrard and Robbie Nevil; Ray Cham, Greg Cham and
Andrew Seeley; Randy Petersen and Kevin Quinn; Andy Dodd
and Adam Watts; Bryan Louiselle; David N. Lawrence and Faye
Greenberg; Jamie Houston

Music Adapted, Arranged and Produced by
Bryan Louiselle

Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by
Peter Barsocchini

Production Staff

Set Design
Lily Smith

Light Design
Ben Orr

Stage Manager
Shelby Mercer

Costume Design
Trudie Byrd

Sound Design
Aidan Anon

Assistant Director
Trey Henderson

Choreographed by
Amy D. Davidge

Music Directed by
Sarah Smith

Directed by
Bryan Szekacs

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is my 25th year directing shows at Shawnee, and in all, I have directed/produced 57 shows. It was February of 2000 when a couple of students came up to me and said, "Mr. Szekacs, we know you did drama in high school and a commercial in college. Would you be interested in directing a play for us?" I had just resigned from coaching softball and had some free time on my hands, so I decided, "What the heck." From there, I never looked back. I became addicted to the stage and working with actors.

Over the years, I have worked with over a thousand different students as actors, stage crew, orchestra, and have gotten to know a lot of great and talented people. A number of them continued with the art, working as professional cameramen, Shakespearean actors, sound and lighting professionals, house managers in DC, Broadway dancers/singers, professional musicians, choir directors, acting directors, community theater actors, Miss USA, and the list goes on.

This year's group ranks as one of the top groups with which I have had the pleasure to work. The seniors and juniors have been essential in rebuilding my program in the past three post-COVID years. I'm not going to lie; it has been like pulling teeth to get students involved with anything in the post-COVID years, but my core group has been not only faithful and excited to be part of the drama program, but they have also been one of the most talented groups of kids I have had the pleasure to work with. They are talented actors/singers/dancers, great leaders, and wonderful people. I also want to thank their parents who have been very supportive of the program as well.

While I am on the topic of thanking people, I want to thank my phenomenal wife for all of her help behind the scenes for the past 25 years. She has served as assistant director, a supportive wife, helpful parent, and the greatest "gofer" (hunny gofer this, gofer that, I forgot this, could you bring me...). Additionally, Mrs. Lang, Mr. Henderson, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Byrd, and Mrs. Davidge have all been essential to the production of this show. With my cancer treatments and ailments making my attendance difficult at times, I have had to rely heavily on them. I also want to thank my Drama Set Building classes. They have been outstanding in helping me get the set, lighting, and sound together. Finally, I want to thank the administration for investing in the program and allowing me to be me. They have been very supportive and are greatly appreciated.

For my final thoughts, let me talk about tonight's musical. I have never watched the original movies of High School Musical, but I have directed the show. I chose this particular work for this senior class because I knew it would allow me to showcase the various talents of my students. I also chose this show because of its message. In my 33 years of teaching, I have worked hard to try to tear down the "social barriers" that exist in schools. I was the type of kid who was friendly with everyone no matter what "click" they belonged to, and I have tried to instill this value in my students. What made me fall in love with theater 25 years ago was how I saw students from different backgrounds and age groups become friends, or at least get on speaking terms with each other. For years, I have prided myself on working with students in my program who were Thespians, Jocks, Choir kids, Band kids, Alternatives, Brainiacs, Rich, Poor, you name it. This show is all about the message of not letting people or yourself put you in categories. It preaches that it's okay to be a basketball star who sings or bakes. As I walk away from the stage and my career, this is something I want people to remember about me. Remember that I care about you, I believe in you, and I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and try something new!

Bryan Szekacs

SONGS

ACT I

Scene I: East High School Steps (& Ski Lodge), Monday 7:45 AM

Wildcat Cheer Company

Start of Something New Troy, Gabriella, Company

Scene II: Ms. Darbus' Homeroom, Monday 8:00 AM

Scene III: Hallway, Monday 8:30 AM

Scene IV: Gym, Monday 8:30 AM

Get'cha Head in the Game Troy, Jocks

Get'cha Head in the Game (reprise) Troy, Jocks

Scene V: Chemistry Lab, Monday 2:00 PM

Scene VI: Theater, Monday 3:00 PM

Scene VII: Theater, Tuesday 3:00 PM

Auditions Thespians, Ms. Darbus

What I've Been Looking For Sharpay, Ryan

What I've Been Looking For (Reprise) Troy, Gabriella

Scene VIII: Various Places, Tuesday Evening

Cellular Fusion Chad, Taylor, Company

Scene IX: Cafeteria, Wednesday Noon

Stick to the Status Quo Company

ACT II

Scene I: Rooftop Garden, Wednesday 12:30 PM

I Can't Take My Eyes Off of You Troy, Gabriella

Scene II: Sharpay's Locker, Wednesday 12:30 PM

Scene III: Study Hall, Wednesday 1:00 PM

Wildcat Cheer (reprise) Cheerleaders

Scene IV: Gym, Wednesday 3:30 PM

Scene V: Locker Room/Lab, Wednesday 4:00 PM

Counting on You Jocks, Brainiacs

When There Was Me and You Gabriella, Troy, Jocks, Brainiacs

Scene VI: Isolated Spaces, Wednesday Evening

Scene VII: Rehearsal Room, Thursday 12:30 PM

Scene VIII: Theater, Thursday 12:45 PM

Start of Something New (reprise) Troy, Gabriella

Scene IX: Study Hall, Thursday 1:00 PM

We're All in This Together Chad, Taylor, Kelsi, Jocks, Brainiacs

SONGS

ACT II (continued)

Scene X: Lab/Theater/Locker Room & Gym, Friday 3:00 PM

Bop to the Top Sharpay, Ryan, Jocks, Brainiacs

Breaking Free Troy, Gabriella, Company

Scene XI: Gym, Friday 5:00 PM

We're All in This Together (Reprise) Company

High School Musical Megamix Company

CAST

Cast Members

Troy Bolton	KASON DENNIS
Gabriella Montez	OLIVIA LEMON
Sharpay Evans	HEATHER HARE
Ryan Evans	NICK DUNN
Taylor McKessie	LILY SMITH
Chad Denforth	GRANT DRISKILL
Zeke Baylor	KEAGIN ORTIZ
Martha Cox	NARISSA OWEN
Jack Scott	LUKE WILSON
Kelsi Nielsen	MELANI FIELDS
Ms. Darbus	ADELIN BELCHER
Coach Jack Bolton	ALEX LUBBERS
Ms. Tenny	GRACEE EVANS
Alaina	KAI CAIN
Cathy	RACHEL ATKINS
Cyndra	GRACE HAY
Jason	JACKSON WARRINGTON
Karaoke M.C.	AVERY YOUNG
Moderator	SYDNEY WILSON
Ripper	NEXUS WESTRUM
Susan	REESE CHILCOTE
Mongo	GRACEE EVANS
James	GIDEON JACKSON
Kratnoff	JAMEY KUHN
Students	CARLY BLANKE (Brainiac) JACKIE HARRIS (Brainiac) AVERY PETTERSON (Brainiac) MADI BENETRIX (Skater) ZAZRAEL HUNSICKER (Skater) SARA WILSON (Skater)

CAST

Cast Members (continued)

Basketball Players	LOGAN COLLIER CAIDEN CRAIG DARIAN DIXON CONNAR EARLES NATE WOODRUFF
Cheerleaders	TEMPERANCE DAVIS REESE CHILCOTE JADIE MEADE AVERY PETERSON KYNDALL SHOPE AVERY YOUNG

Production / Creative Team

Director	BRYAN SZEKACS
Asst Director	TREY HENDERSON
Choreographer	AMY D. DAVIDGE
Vocal Coach	STEPHANIE LANGE

Understudies

Gabriella Montez	NARISSA OWEN
Sharpay Evans	REESE CHILCOTE
Taylor McKessie	GRACE HAY
Ms. Darbus	NEXUS WESTRUM

Orchestra

Conductor	SARAH SMITH
Pit	JULIE GALLAGHER (Piano) DUSTIN MALONE (Guitar) ADAM SZEKACS (Bass) ETHAN KALMERTON (Drumset) LIAM TAYLOR (Percussion) NILEY ALEXANDER (Percussion) TRENTON TAYLOR (Percussion) DREW DIEHL (Trombone) SILAS CLARK (Alto Saxophone) EMMA WOODRUFF (Alto Saxophone) MICAH ECHOLS (Clarinet) ADDIE SEGREST (Flute)

...

CREW

Crew Members

Stage Crew

LIZZI MERRIMAN
ZORION HUNSICKER
OLIVIA EDWARDS
ANN LAMB-DANIELS
JR HADDIX

WHO'S WHO



KASON DENNIS

as Troy Bolton

Kason Dennis is a senior. He has been apart of the drama department for all four years of high school as well as four years in band and choir. Kason enjoys music and wants to pursue music education in college. Besides his love of music Kason loves to dance and perform in his school's winter guard team. Tonight he is dedicating his performance to his family.



OLIVIA LEMON

as Gabriella Montez

Olivia is a senior and is happy she spent her last few months of school working with her favorite people. Last year, she was a part of the musical Beauty and the Beast (Belle). She has been a part of choir for 8 years and has grown a passion for music that she wants to continue in college. Tonight, Olivia is dedicating her performance to her family. She thanks her family for being her number one supporters through everything she does



HEATHER HARE

as Sharpay Evans

Heather is a senior and is thrilled to be performing in her twentieth production! Some of her favorite musical performances include Newsies, Seussical (Gertrude), Addams Family (Morticia), and Beauty and the Beast (Babette). Outside of performing in musical theater, Heather has a passion for many styles of dance. She has danced in many variety shows and three times in The Nutcracker. Heather would like to thank her family and her friends for being so encouraging and supportive.



NICK DUNN

as Ryan Evans

Nick is super excited to play the role of Ryan Evans. His favorite activities consist of playing video games, and smelling his favorite smell, "Up Brother". Nick is planning on joining the military after highschool, and plans to become an orthodontist. His favorite part of the show is being bullied by Sharpay, all the time, every time, always. If Nick could say one thing to you all it would be "I dont wish I was Beyoncé, Beyoncé wishes she was me."

WHO'S WHO



LILY SMITH

as Taylor McKessie

Lily Smith plays the role of Taylor McKessie in her senior year show at Shawnee. She has been a part of the Clark Shawnee theater program for 8 years as well as an active member in choir for 9 years. She has also participated in community productions and theater camps in the area. Her shows in Clark County include Annie Jr (Annie), Seussical Jr (Sour Kangaroo), Alice in Wonderland Jr (Queen of Hearts), Addams Family (Alice), Beauty and The Beast (Mrs. Potts). She has thoroughly enjoyed her high school years, feeling lucky to have shared them with such a talented and delightful group of peers, as well as exceptional directors and crew.



GRANT DRISKILL

as Chad Denforth

Grant Driskill is a senior. He has been in many productions including Bye Birdie, Beauty and The Beast, Done to Death, and this year's production, High School Musical. He wants to thank his parents and friends, and God for all the opportunities that he's been given. Additionally he wants to thank Heather Hare because she helped with the choreography.



KEAGIN ORTIZ

as Zeke Baylor

Keagin Ortiz is in his sophomore year of highschool, and cannot wait to perform this year's production. Keagin is a proud member of the drama club, and this is his fourth high school production. Keagin would like to thank his family for supporting him in all that he does, and especially his mother for constantly running him around EVERYWHERE.



NARISSA OWEN

as Martha Cox

Narissa is a sophomore. She participated in last year's musical, "Beauty and the Beast," where she had some of her best memories and made many close friendships. She is grateful for her loving, supportive family. Narissa also wants to give a huge thank you to Brian Szekcas and Trey Henderson for not only being amazing directors, but amazing people.

WHO'S WHO



LUKE WILSON

as Jack Scott

Luke is very excited for this year's show! He is in Eleventh Grade and this is his third high school production, but his first main role. He has been doing shows since he was in the Fifth Grade, starting with Seussical: The Musical Jr. He would like to thank his Mom, Dad, Grandparents, Brother, Sister, and Teachers for helping him achieve his goals.



MELANI FIELDS

as Kelsi Nielsen

Melani is a junior. She has been in the previous productions of Addams Family (chorus), Professor Nolittle and the Gift of Murder (Dr. Ce Awe), Beauty and the Beast (Stage Crew), and No Vacancies (Sonja Joylab). She would like to thank her parents for allowing her to participate in the extracurricular activities.



ADELINE BELCHER

as Ms. Darbus

Adeline is a senior and has been involved in the theater program at Shawnee for three years. She has been in the productions of The Addams Family, Beauty and the Beast, No Vacancy and many others. She would like to thank Mr. Szekacs for bringing her into the world of theater as well as her friends and family for supporting her throughout her theater endeavors.



ALEX LUBBERS

as Coach Jack Bolton

Alex is a senior and this is his very first show with Shawnee. He has done other performances like "The Nutcracker" and other shows when he was younger. Alex is also on the Shawnee track team. Alex strongly encourages anyone who has thought about joining the play or any school extracurricular to "Just do it, you never know what you're missing out on."

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Good Luck

to the Cast, Crew, and Pit of
High School Musical On Stage!

Break a Leg

Aidan Anon

Adeline Belcher

Carly Blanke

Reece Chilcote

Kason Dennis

Grant Driskill

Heather Hare

Ayden Haynes

Olivia Lemon

Jadie Meade

Ben Orr

Keagin Ortiz

Narissa Owen

Avery Peterson

Lily Smith

Amelia Weaver

Nexus Westrum

Luke Wilson

Sara Wilson

Sydney Wilson

Avery Young



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following people for helping sponsor our show!!

Shawnee High School Softball Team
Darrell and Michelle Kitchen
Dr. James Tetz, *DMD*
Harris Family
John and Ruth McBlane
Judy Lemon
Mike Lubbers
The Young Family

Additionally, we would like to thank
The Clark-Shawnee School Board and Adminstators for their support throughout this show.

Finally, we would like to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Mr. Szekacs' Set Design class for putting together this awesome set! Thank you to Mr. Logan Griffith for all his help and support with the drama class while Mr. Szekacs has been out.

HAILEE DENNIS
KASON DENNIS
DREW DIEHL
EVAN GABRIEL
GRACE HAY
ZORIAN HUNSICKER
ZAZRIEL HUNSICKER
ALAYNA JENKIS
BROOKE MILLER
KHLOE MOORE
GRACE SHORT
ABIGAIL SOUTH
JAYDEN STEPHANS
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