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SOTA BOOST Students Preview Fringe Festival Jazz-Folk Opera *Hephaestus*

Who:

School of the Arts summer school participants involved in the BOOST program

What:

Performance of *Hephaestus: A God with a Disability*

When:

Thursday, August 27, 2026, 10 a.m.

Where:

School of the Arts
45 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607

Details:

Students participating in the school’s BOOST program receive targeted instruction, credit recovery support, and enrichment opportunities to accelerate their academic success. As part of their summer program, BOOST (Building Opportunities for Outstanding Student Success), students have been preparing a performance of *Hephaestus: A God with a Disability* by composer Glenn McClure and librettist Wes Kennison.

The show is a jazz-infused, high-energy folk opera that follows the Greek god Hephaestus from his mother tossing him out of Olympus because of his disabilities to his redemption as a master artist. The show will be directed by teachers Marcy Gamzon, Vocal Director James Hartmann, and Choreographers Bridget Bell and Claire Spenard.

This performance serves as a preview for the upcoming 2026 ESL Rochester Fringe Festival. *Hephaestus* will officially open the SOTA POPS! 2026 lineup on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:00 p.m. in the Allen Main Stage Theatre.