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DramaDons' Comedy 'The Curious Savage' Opens Nov. 10

Submitted by Mandy Chivers

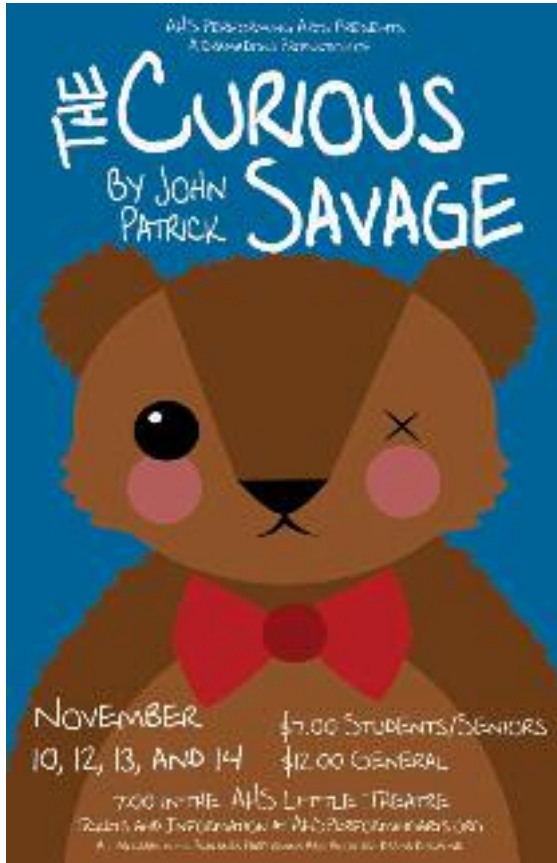


Image by Rachel Larsen, DramaDons' resident artist

The Acalanes DramaDons will open their entertaining and comedic production, "The Curious Savage," directed by Acalanes drama teacher Ed Meehan Nov. 10. "The Drama Dons have been hard at work for the last six weeks preparing," said Meehan. "We began September 15th with auditions and call-backs. Fifty students auditioned for 11

roles. Once the play was cast we dove into a full table read of the play." The actors discussed the play's themes and what they wanted to say with the piece, and then began working on their characters.

The plot has delightful twists involving a widow who inherited millions of dollars from her husband and wants to use the money to help others realize their hopes and dreams. Her grown-up stepchildren want the money for themselves and commit the widow to a "sanatorium" hoping to "bring her to her senses." Instead, the widow leads the self-serving stepchildren on a hilarious chase for the inheritance, while befriendng the charming "guests" of the sanatorium.

"While the acting crew was preparing, the Acalanes Stagecraft class was hard at work designing and creating sets, costumes, props, lights, and sound for the production," said Meehan. "The stagecraft students built and painted sets; designed, built and procured costumes. They hung focus lights; chose music and sound effects (both practical and recorded). It is a lot of work to create the whole world of the play."

The story playfully highlights how, in a world that seems motivated by greed and dishonesty, the virtues of kindness and affection can prevail.

"We are very excited for this production," said Meehan. "It is funny, sweet, and has a lot of heart!"

The production runs Nov. 10, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the Acalanes High School Little Theatre. Tickets are available in November during lunch at AHS and online from the web store: adults \$12; students and seniors \$7. There are limited ticket sales at the door. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://ahsperformingarts.org>.

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'Transyl-Mania' Promises Loads of Laughs at OIS

The more silly than spooky production opens Nov. 12

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



The "Transyl-Mania" Zombie cast

Photo provided

Cue the lightning! Cue the thunder! It is going to be monster mayhem at Orinda Intermediate School's (OIS) Bulldog Theater during the fall production of "Transyl-Mania" – a frightfully fun comedy.

Transylvania High School is where kids of all the classic monster movie villains go to learn the tricks of the trade. There are vampires, mummies, werewolves, zombies, witches, Frankenstein's daughter, the Invisible Man's son, and even the Phantom of the Opera's kid, all of them struggling to live up to their parents' legendary examples. From science fair projects to cliques, these monsters struggle with the same stresses as typical teenagers. When a group of human high school students stumbles upon the

monster school thanks to a broken down bus, utter mayhem ensues. Far more silly than spooky, this comedy delivers both loads of laughs and a gentle message about befriendng those who are different from us. "Transyl-Mania" is appropriate for ages 7 and up.

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of their education program. Jacob Russell-Snyder serves as director with Sidney Spiegel as assistant director. Presented as a "Totally-Teen" comedy, Russell-Snyder notes, "Over the past few months of rehearsal, we have taken the comedy of this show very seriously. We have memorized jokes, practiced our chase scene and worked on the timing of both physical and verbal jokes. It

has been important for us to really know and understand not only what the characters say, but why they say what they say. Each actor was responsible for coming up with their character's back stories and even had input over their costume and how their character might dress."

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 43 OIS students along with additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run Nov. 12-14 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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