The Campanile
Mount Saint Joseph Academy

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Mount Broadway Wishes Cast:

Seniors:
Liana Alcaro
Erin Bethel
Nina Chae-Gordon
Colleen Daly
Grace Gillespie
Sarah Hodgson
Bridget Malott
Annie Meko
Lauren Mezzanotte
Margo Murphy
Audrey Trullinger

Juniors:
Teleri Broomhead
Amanda Lamphere
Lucia Macoretta
Brianna Mahon
Maura McDonald
Natalie Walker
Colleen Yezzi
Maggie Zipfel

Sophomores:
Gianna Branca
Ali Dobbs
Catherine Grogan
Caroline Jakubik
Maura Langella
Ella Martin
Jenna McCrea

Freshmen:
Laura Bennett
Clare Gimpel
Erin Maguire
Grace Toriello

A "season" of Broadway Wishes

By Kelly Shearman '18

Mark your calendars, because on May 18, Broadway is coming to town!

"Broadway Wishes," started in 2012 by then Mount senior and childhood cancer survivor Lauren Buben, is a student-run production, showcasing hits from various Broadway musicals. Every year, the show donates all of the money raised during the show to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and sponsors a Make-A-Wish family.

This year, "Broadway Wishes," led by Mount seniors Nina Chae-Gordon, Grace Gillespie and Lauren Mezzanotte; GMA senior Lauren Esser; and LaSalle senior Patrick Mizzoni; promises to deliver another magical extravaganza.

To begin the process of putting on an amazing show, the leaders first have to divvy up the major roles to ensure that the show runs smoothly.

"Assigning these positions was all voluntary. It shows how much people want to help rather than feel obligated to sing and dance in another show," said Mizzoni.

Chae-Gordon covers the vocals, Gillespie covers the administrative duties, Esser covers the fundraising and choreography and Mezzanotte and Mizzoni cover the choreography.

This year, Esser created a Fundraising Team for the fundraising aspect of "Broadway Wishes." "This is the first time 'Broadway Wishes' has had such a team, and it has proven to be a great asset to the cause," said Chae-Gordon. The Fundraising Team consists of LaSalle seniors Sean Friday and Jacob Weyand and Mount junior Bri Mahon.

With 73 members in the cast, all of whom possess incredibly creative minds and great talent, there will certainly be creative differences here and there. As Gillespie said, "Just as in any show, there are of course, some difficulties. However, as a team and a cast, we have truly worked through them maturely."

"'Broadway Wishes' is truly a collaborative effort, so regardless of whether or not someone holds a leadership position, everyone is working towards a common goal: to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation," said Chae-Gordon.

The production team raises money at CycleBar fundraising event (from left to right): Grace Gillespie (Mount '18), Lauren Esser (GMA '18), Patrick Mizzoni (LaSalle '18), Lauren Mezzanotte (Mount '18), and Nina Chae-Gordon (Mount '18).

But for Chae-Gordon, Gillespie and Mezzanotte, taking on leadership positions for the production was a perfect fit. For both Gillespie and Mezzanotte, this show has been "like no other."

Chae-Gordon said, "Running 'Broadway Wishes' has always been something that I have dreamt of doing since freshman year."

All five senior leaders acknowledged that they would not have had the passion for this show if it was not for the previous leaders.

"I think I speak for all five of us when I say all of our past leaders have been incredible and without their help we would not be here today. Each year, the success of 'Broadway Wishes' continues to grow, and I think taking advice from former leaders is essential in that development," said Gillespie.

For Mezzanotte, in particular, the past leaders, Katie Hunter and Alyssa Mattia, have had a great impact on her and will always be a helping hand. "If I have a question I know that they will be willing to answer it and help me solve any problem I have," said Mezzanotte.

According to Chae-Gordon, "The show is more than a mere performance. It's an opportunity for a group of high school performers to effect change in their communities and to change the lives of one, if not more, families," said Chae-Gordon.

This year, the five leaders took a trip to the Make-A-Wish offices and were given a tour of the office. They also listened to the stories of kids who elected to use their Wish to benefit someone or something else.

"The experience was so eye-opening because I was able to put a face, or in this case, multiple faces, to the cause," said Chae-Gordon.

"The Make-A-Wish Foundation is such a worthy cause and I am humbled to hear the various Wish Kid stories. I get to do what I love and use it to help those who aren't as fortunate," said Mezzanotte.

Participating in "Broadway Wishes" has certainly had a great impact on the leaders. "Being able to do what I love to help others with my best friends is both humbling and fulfilling in every aspect," said Gillespie.

"No amount of singing, dancing, splitting and tapping will compare to that inner feeling you get when you see the Wish family right in the front row," said Mizzoni.

"Broadway Wishes" will always be in the hearts of the leaders and Lauren Buben's legacy will live on for years to come.

"In 2012, Lauren Buben left behind a legacy, and I feel as if it is my personal duty to bring justice to it," said Chae-Gordon.

So come out to LaSalle College High School on May 18 at 7:15 p.m. to see the magnificent performance come to life. The link for ticket sales and any other additional information can be found on broadwaywishes.com.

And for a little sneak peak, Mizzoni said, "There will be splits and 'Dear Evan Hansen.' That is all."

Artwork by Megan McGettigen '19