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PRESS RELEASE

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Feel-good musical 'Annie' takes the stage at Badin High School



Seniors Allie Pickerill and Gray Schierholt will make their final appearances in a Badin High School musical as they star in the feel-good story of "Annie" on the BHS stage March 25-28.

"This is a really fun show," said Lisa Clear Schaffer '76, putting her outstanding touch on the Badin musical for the fourth year, once again joined by co-director Tina Jacoby Welsh. "Practices have gone extremely well. It's shaping up to be a great production."

Pickerill stars as Annie, the orphan girl who is trying to find her parents during the American economic depression of the 1930s. She's brought to the home of the wealthy and tough Oliver Warbucks (Schierholt) to spend Christmas, and warms his heart to the extent that he will do anything to find some parents for her.

Other key roles include junior Mallory Gantenberg as Grace, Warbucks' assistant; junior Kristen Collier as Miss Hannigan, the mean supervisor of the orphanage; senior Patrick Listermann as Hannigan's brother, Rooster; and junior Morgan Gattermeyer as Lilly St. Regis, Rooster's ditsy girlfriend who helps fuel the plot.

The Badin production includes elementary school students playing roles as orphans, two live dogs, and a full volunteer orchestra.

“This is going to be such a quality production,” Schaffer said. “The volunteers working behind the scenes have done some great work. We have had good sets and scenery in the past few years, but these are even that much better.”

Schaffer noted that Hamilton Civic Theater has been generous in helping with the Badin effort.

“Annie” has recently been out on a national Broadway company tour, and production of the show has been blacked out throughout the country. Badin High will be among the first schools to perform the show since the blackout was lifted.

“It’s funny how things seem to repeat themselves in history,” Schaffer said in looking at today’s economic environment. “The issues that affected Annie in the 1930s are not so much different than what is going on around us right now.”

Schaffer and Jacoby Welsh previously directed “The Pajama Game” (2007), “Guys and Dolls” (2008) and “Cinderella” (2009) on the Badin stage, and have been involved with numerous aspects of Badin drama in the years before that.

“We enjoy doing it,” Schaffer said. “This is a wonderful show and the students are doing a great job. ... We’ve already sold a quarter of the tickets and we haven’t even started putting posters out yet.”

Tickets are \$10 apiece or six for \$48.

Other members of the cast include Badin seniors Jack Bowling, Maggie Evers, Josh Gavin, Greg Hardewig and Maria Salerno; juniors Jeff Levline and Stella Zhang; sophomores Molly Ehrnschwender, Allison Rees and Rachel Schwarz; and freshmen Tori Getz, Sophia Grollmus, Patrick Kuhl, Elizabeth McKinley, Kristia Money, Morgan Parks, Nathan Peter, Sophie Peterson and Noah Rich. Elementary school students involved are Libby Crank from St. Peter in Chains, Emily Duff and Rachel Duff from St. Joseph, Alyssa McKinney from Queen of Peace and Lauren Moser from Sacred Heart.

The curtain will rise in Badin’s Little Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday nights, March 25-27, with a Sunday matinee, March 28, set for 2:30 p.m.

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