

What Makes This Dance Department Different From the Rest?

Aliyah Glenn

Westinghouse Arts Academy has a mission to make growing scholars explore their artistic skills as dancers. This school allows individuals to express themselves in ways they most feel comfortable with.

The Significance of Coming to Westinghouse Arts Academy

There are many different schools that you could attend, but why come to Westinghouse? This school seems to have a different type of support system. At Westinghouse Art Academy they support your future goals and let you explore your creative skills. It's a very positive environment that uplifts people and works together to help one another grow. "I really love how inclusive everyone is here and I really wanted to broaden my horizons of technique and wanted to grow my artistry so I chose this school specifically for their dance department." said Jocelyn Emrock. An upperclassman who saw this school as an opportunity to thrive in. With the help of her dance teachers Tracey Casciato and Stephanie Tolbert-King she has developed into a strong dancer and her technique has improved since she has been here. This school has helped her flourish, and she is now ready to further her dance education in college.

WAACS dance department is open to everyone with two different majors. You could be a dance major or a dance exploratory major. When auditioning, they look to see your level of experience. We don't want anyone to feel they are overwhelmed or underwhelmed so I like to see if they have technique and training and if they don't have training that's fine as long as they have a love for dance I can find a place for them," said Tracey Casciato. Having a love and passion for dance is very important. If you are dedicated to dance, this is the place for you. At WAACS there are very advanced dancers here, but also dancers that are still learning themselves.

The dance room is run in an orderly fashion. "When we go in the dance room we stretch, work on technique, and then go into choreography for the shows if we have time," said Zyanna Francis. Stretching is very important because it prevents students from injuries. Then they practice their skills and techniques. It is also essential to learn show prep since we have shows throughout the school year.

Fun Facts:

Tracey Casciato has been a partner with a dance company, Studio G, for 30 years!
Studio G has been a dance studio for 50 years!

Extra Curricular Activity

WACCS has many different showcases throughout the year that let students display their talents. There are usually around four performance opportunities a year. Around Christmas time the school has a Winter Showcase. This is a mandatory performance for the dance department and it also includes the other performing arts departments. This allows students to collaborate with each other. Then, in the Spring, there is another showcase, this year it will be student choreographed. The upperclassmen get to show their talents by choreographing dances for the show. After that there is a musical in which dancers are allowed and are encouraged to audition for that run by the musical theater department. Lastly there is a spring dance concert at the end of the year that is mandatory. Having these shows allows students to express themselves and show what they have learned.

At WAACS there are plenty of different dance electives. The different classes they provide are hip hop, jazz, ballet, modern, tap, musical theater, contemporary, improvisation, and yoga. There are many different options you can choose from at this school. You can find what type of dance you are best at or enjoy the most.

This school allows selected scholars the opportunity every year to go to a national or regional dance festival. At the festivals "we take master classes, we are able to audition for colleges and scholarships, and we get to perform and have a really good time." Every year the dance department takes a trip to these festivals not only to have a good time but also to give these dancers the opportunities to grow and learn new skills.

If you want to be in an empowering, uplifting, and inviting dance department, this is a good option for you. This school does its best to embrace everyone. The sole purpose of this school is to let the youth grow their techniques and explore their passions. There are not a lot of schools where you can take two to three dance classes a day, but here, you can. While academic education is a main priority, they also make your major a priority too.

WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY HAS WON THE VIEWERS CHOICE AWARD FOR DMAC-ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY'S 48 HOUR FILM CHALLENGE FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF 2023 AND 2024.

“WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE'S PORTFOLIO YOU SEE THE FINISHED PRODUCT. BUT I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR DESIGN PROCESS.”

ROB SHULTZ

“TAKE THE CHANCE. FOLLOW IT THROUGH.”

TYLER SARVER

“GET YOUR STUFF OUT THERE, GET A SHOW, GET NOTICED.”

ROB SHULTZ

“THESE SKILLS CREST INTO EVERY AREA, IN ANY FIELD THAT YOU GO INTO.”

ALEA DELPRETE

“I'M LEARNING ON MY OWN AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF TEACHERS. I'M LEARNING SO MUCH ABOUT THE PROGRAMS BEHIND FILM AND FILM STRATEGIES, FILM THEORY, AND ALSO THOSE OTHER SKILLS.”

DEVIN FRANK

“WE ARE THE MEDIA.”

CINCERE DAVIS



Frank, Devin. Sample of Student Work. 2023.



Frank, Devin. Sample of Student Work. 2023.

Did you remember to thank digital artists today? Maybe an easier question would be: when was the last time you checked your phone? The activities that occur on a daily basis are all thanks to digital artists. From the film industry to accounting, many professions have digital artists working to create and promote their products. Here at Westinghouse Arts Academy, teachers and students are dedicated to improving the world around them. With the guidance of experienced faculty, the Digital Arts program provides students with opportunities to explore their passion and potential future careers.

The Digital Arts teachers, Ms. Alea DelPrete and Mr. Rob Shultz, have years worth of success within the world of producing, marketing, and instructing others. In addition to being an experienced teacher at various schools, Ms. DelPrete seized the opportunity to run the program and teach graphic design at a two-year college. Mr. Shultz judged the work of college graduates from schools such as Carnegie Mellon University and Rhode Island School of Design as a duty to hire new designers. “And sometimes,” beams Shultz, “I see the same work ethic, the same quality of work from high school students and I’m amazed.” The teachers look for students who can maintain positive attitudes, are quick learners, creative, adaptable, and problem solvers. The teachers also prefer students who are able to go beyond their comfort zone, use sketchbooks, are open-minded, and passionate about their work. Shultz states, “You have to be passionate about it, that’s when the best art happens. If you’re not passionate about what you’re doing, it shows.”

The importance of passion is not exclusive to Ms. DelPrete and Mr. Shultz. For many students, their love of the digital arts is what drives them to further their education at Westinghouse Arts. Some students consider careers within digital arts such as Devin Frank. Being a junior in the Digital Arts department, Frank discusses their personal business and Westinghouse Arts Academy’s involvement. “I have all these wonderful ideas for promotional videos and different designs for shirts, sweatpants, and hoodies.” The business began as an entrepreneur-related project during Devin’s freshman year and progressed into plans to sell their products at Arts Fest. Frank is one student of many that will use the skills learned from the Digital Arts program in their future.

Students without a career plan are confident their digital arts knowledge will be useful in their everyday lives. Tyler Sarver has no specific career in mind, but with the background in Adobe products, a rewarding career is sure to be found. Ms. DelPrete and Mr. Shultz promote student success and the ability to utilize artistic platforms which advances the qualifications for future opportunities. Whether in school or in everyday life, students already have made impacts on the world around them. Cincere Davis has pushed through the hardships of finding a monitor for the Animation Club and has successfully started the club. “I would like for Animation Club to become its own sort of class, not just a club,” they reveal their hopes of Animation Club continuing to be prominent even after graduating. “I really do have big hopes and dreams for it.”

Another accomplishment of the Digital Arts program includes WAMtv. A YouTube account run by the Digital Arts major that posts interviews, skits, and news as a way for students to learn filmmaking techniques and skills. “WAMtv is an avenue where I can express my love for film through the program and also get a bit of a glimpse into proper film expectations,” says a student featured in the show as an interviewer. Although the channel is new, a bright future lies ahead for WAMtv, especially since Point Park University donated equipment. The equipment will be used to film more episodes and be used as a tool students learn with. Sarver states, “The Digital Art program is definitely a lot more technical than I think some people think it is. It’s a lot more cameras, editing, learning Adobe products, which I think is wonderful.”

Within the Digital Arts program, applications for creating or altering media from Adobe are used. Each product has its own purpose, such as editing videos, audio, and images. A certification with Adobe Products proves a person’s digital skills, which many colleges and jobs look for on resumes. Students looking into careers within digital arts appreciate the knowledge of learning the applications. “Learning how to use Adobe is so helpful, especially now knowing what I know when it comes to finding a job in graphic design,” says Cincere. Westinghouse Arts looks forward to the possibility of becoming a certification hub for more people than Digital Arts students. Many career fields use digital artists, including the jobs that seem to have no relation. Teachers, accountants, the nine to five jobs, musicians, fashion designers, and so much more! “Without digital artists,” Davis says, “a lot of what happens today would not happen.”

The Making of the Music of the Night: The Instrumental Department By Cody Mough

Instrumental is the perfect major for anyone who is looking to join WAACS and is passionate about playing or writing music. With a very professional environment the faculty in the department creates, the experience is unlike any other bands and orchestras in high schools. They provide a variety of courses for students to take to enhance their learning. More than that, however, the culture and kindness present among the students and teachers who work within Instrumental make it an ideal choice for aspiring musicians.


When looking at an audition, Travis Rigby, head of the instrumental department, looks for dedication to one's own instrument, as well as willingness to learn. Mx. Rigby has been teaching at Waacs for 6 years, but has 14 years of experience. They have won 2 Broadway World categories for best music direction and orchestra performance in Pittsburgh. They also brought a brand new show to Pittsburgh with the original composer. Since the collection of students and the instruments they play are varied (see sidebar), they emphasize that the instrumental department is different from a high school band. "People who are coming from a bigger school may have had good or bad experiences in band or orchestra," they say. "The thing I hit home is that at Westinghouse, we don't have a band or an orchestra, we're just an instrumental ensemble, we're our own thing,"

There are a variety of classes available for all students. Students are required to take an ensemble course; underclassmen usually take instrumental ensemble, while upperclassmen typically take chamber ensemble. Chamber ensemble is a favorite class among many students and usually has more difficult music. Underclassmen are also required to take Music Literacy 1 and 2, as well as Intro to Piano. The former teaches the basics of music theory, such as how to read notes on different staves, intervals, time signature, rhythm, and key signatures. The second part (Music Literacy 2) teaches sight singing, harmony, and part writing. Intro to Piano teaches proper technique when playing, such as hand posture and posture in general, as well as reading sheet music (for those who don't know already) and is a class open to everyone in the school. Music Practicum is also available for all students of any major. In this class, students can work one-on-one or on their own with Mx. Rigby. Each of these help students to find success and further their understanding of musical concepts.

Instrumental majors are also given opportunities to perform outside of school in pit orchestras for plays, musicals, and concerts. The Instrumental Department, on average, puts on six performances a year. For these performances, Mx. Rigby will sometimes arrange pieces for different instruments. In terms of the musical, they will write books for instruments that are not part of the original score, maximizing the amount of students in each production. In the past, they have even allowed students to arrange works for their fellow classmates to perform in concerts. There have even been a few who have assisted Mx. Rigby in arrangements for larger performances like the musical. These experiences challenge students to enhance each of their assets and collaborate to make a performance possible.

One of the greatest values of WAACS is the student's individuality. The instrumental department is no different. "Just be yourself, don't be nervous," says Senior Jenn Bakowski, who plays the bass and various woodwinds. Creating a culture of comfort for the students is a top priority to ensure the best results. There is no pressure to be perfect, only chances to grow. "Rehearsal space is made for making mistakes and to fix them...As Miss Very [dean of students and a voice teacher] says, 'Loud and proud, Strong and wrong.'"

The instrumental department isn't about experience, or being a master of your instrument. It's about being dedicated to the practice and creating musical art. This is the greatest value of the instrumental department. With the help of Mx. Rigby and students alike, they're able to come together and create fantastic pieces of auditory art. With all of the opportunities provided to students, the department helps cultivate the perfect professional experience for the future of the music world.



There are 38 students in the instrumental department, and all 8 majors are represented!



More than half of the musicians here play more than one instrument!



There are 4 brass players, 9 woodwinds, 8 string members, and 25-30 players in the rhythm section.

A PREFACE BEFORE YOU BEGIN: THE WAACS LITERARY PROGRAM

BY NOELLE ZAHORCHAK

AT WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY THE LITERARY ARTS' MAIN GOAL IS TO GROW INTEREST IN WRITING AND LITERATURE. THE PROGRAM IS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL GRADES AND TYPES OF WRITING. BEGINNERS DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PERFECTION, AS THE PROGRAM REFINES THESE SKILLS. ALL YOU NEED IS INTEREST. THE HEAD OF THE LITERARY ARTS DEPARTMENT, ADAM AHLGRIM, WHO PREVIOUSLY TAUGHT AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL, PUTS UNDERSTANDING AND CREATIVITY FIRST. THIS PROGRAM CONSISTS OF A FULL UNDERCLASSMAN CLASS OF ABOUT 20 STUDENTS, UPPERCLASSMAN CLASSES OF ROUGHLY 10 STUDENTS. ELECTIVE CLASSES INTRO TO JOURNALISM AND FEMINIST LITERATURE ARE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS TO TAKE; HOWEVER, MORE CHOICES OF LITERARY ARTS COURSES FOR FUTURE YEARS ARE IN THE WORKS. THERE ARE ALSO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP USEFUL SKILLS SUCH AS SCHOOL SPONSORED POETRY READINGS, WORKING ON THE POMP COMMITTEE (THE LITERARY MAGAZINE), READING AT ARTS FEST, AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER MAJORS FOR BIGGER PROJECTS.

MR. AHLGRIM DESCRIBES THE LITERARY ARTS AS *CREATIVE* WRITING, MEANING IT'S FOCUSED ON THE STUDENTS PRODUCING SOMETHING FULFILLING TO THEM. THE COMMON MISCONCEPTION THAT LITERARY ARTS COURSES ARE SIMPLY TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CLASSES IS FAR FROM THE TRUTH. "I THINK A PERSON WHO THINKS THAT...WE PROBABLY DON'T VIEW ENGLISH THE SAME WAY," HE SAYS. CREATIVE WRITING IS DIFFERENT FROM ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING AND REQUIRES SEPARATE TYPES OF THINKING. LITERARY ARTS FOCUSES ON KNOWING THE RULES AND BREAKING THEM, WHILE ACADEMIC ENGLISH FOCUSES ON USING RULES TO THE WRITER'S ADVANTAGE. MR. AHLGRIM COMPARES IT TO UNIVERSITY, "IN A COLLEGE CLASSROOM EVERYONE TRIES SO HARD TO BE THE BEST AND THE COOLEST WRITER, AND HERE THE STUDENTS ARE WEIRD AND FUN. IT MAKES THE WRITING BETTER BECAUSE THE RISK ISN'T THERE AND STUDENTS CAN TRY NEW THINGS."

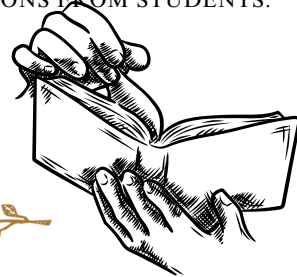
THIS DEPARTMENT PROVIDES BOTH STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITH NEW AND EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES.

CHARACTERISTICS MR. AHLGRIM LOOKS FOR POTENTIAL LITERARY ARTS STUDENTS ARE NOT LIMITED TO TALENT, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE INEXPERIENCED. INSTEAD, HE PREFERS DEDICATED STUDENTS WILLING TO COMPLETE THE ASSIGNED WORK. THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT STUDENTS PUT INTO THEIR PORTFOLIOS SHOWS WHAT THE STUDENT IS WILLING TO DO, AND HOW SERIOUS THEY ARE ABOUT IT. "THE WAY THAT THEY TALK ABOUT READING AND WRITING ALSO EXPLAINS HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT DOING WORK," HE SAYS.

RAE COOK, A SENIOR, MENTIONS THAT HER FAVORITE PARTS OF BEING IN THE LITERARY ARTS PROGRAM ARE GETTING TO SIT AND DISCUSS WRITING WITH HER FELLOW PEERS, "IT'S REALLY COOL HOW WE GET TO SIT AROUND AND ARGUE AND DISCUSS WITH PEOPLE WHO ENJOY DOING THAT." SHE FEELS IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CLASSROOM WHERE YOU CAN BE COMFORTABLE WITH THOSE AROUND YOU AND TALK FREELY. SIMILARLY, UNDERCLASSMAN VLAD BRACKLEY AGREES THAT HE FEELS COMFORTABLE IN THE CLASSROOM TO CRITIQUE, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT IN CREATIVE WRITING. HE TALKS ABOUT THE WORK AS WELL, "I FEEL LIKE LITERARY STUDENTS DO MORE WORK AT HOME THAN OTHER MAJORS, BUT I LIKE IT AND, AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, I ACTUALLY GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT." THE WORK IN LITERARY ARTS IS DIFFERENT FROM AN ENGLISH CLASS BECAUSE MR. AHLGRIM IS ABLE TO DESIGN THE CURRICULUM AND TAKES SUGGESTIONS FROM STUDENTS.

LITERARY ARTS ALSO GIVES OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE IN THE PROGRAM LIKE THE POMP(*PIECES OF MY PEN*) TEAM, AND IS THE SCHOOL'S LITERARY MAGAZINE. STUDENTS HAVE THE OPTION OF JOINING THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE WHICH EDITS AND GIVES FEEDBACK ON ANONYMOUS SUBMISSION. THERE ARE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR, LIKE COFFEE SHOP AND LEMONADE STAND—TWO QUASI-BAKE SALES WITH POETRY READINGS, OR ART IN THE PARK—AN ART SALE ALONG WITH POETRY BOOKS AND READINGS. THESE ALL CAN GET YOU MORE INVOLVED IN THE DEPARTMENT AND MAKE YOU A BETTER STUDENT AND WRITER.

OVERALL, THE LITERARY ARTS DEPARTMENT STRIVES TO CONNECT STUDENTS TO READING AND WRITING, WHILE MAINTAINING THE JOY OF IT ALL. THE STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE AND ACCEPTING ENVIRONMENT. THE TEACHER IS VERY INVITING AND UNDERSTANDING. WHEN IT COMES TO ASKING QUESTIONS OR EXPRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT THE LITERARY ARTS DEPARTMENT, MR. AHLGRIM IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH CLARIFICATION. THE PROGRAM MAKES SURE NO ONE FEELS LEFT BEHIND, AND THIS IS CLEAR IN THE CLASSROOM. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS ANY INTEREST IN WRITING, THEN YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT THE LITERARY ARTS DEPARTMENT. YOU COULD BE A FUTURE LITERARY ARTS MAJOR AT WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY!



Fun Fact: Westinghouse's Literary Department is going on a field trip to Carnegie Mellon's Hunt Library rare book room. They are getting special access to look at old artifacts including early Shakespeare folios. They will also attend a series of lectures at Duquesne University. This day trip will be a lot of fun and a great learning experience for Literary Arts!



The Musical Theatre Department Is “All In This Together!”

By Ava Pollak

When discussing Westinghouse Arts Academy and their performing arts department, the Musical Theatre program would certainly be one to garner attention. Boasting a wide variety of electives and events, students MT study the triad of acting, singing, and dancing to prepare themselves for the world of the performing arts. Even if a student does not wish to pursue a career in theatrics, they will have incredible opportunities to showcase their skill and understand the inner workings of professional productions. More than that, however, the environment faculty members create make it a truly unique experience designed to challenge the mind and body and develop community within the major.

This department offers a wide variety of classes to provide students with the best opportunities. This includes MT Fundamentals for upperclassmen. This course covers all aspects of the performing arts, helping students to strengthen both their skills and relationships with peers. “I can make mistakes, I can learn from them,” Freshman Marley Shick says, “We can all grow together.”

In addition, the Musical Theatre department is involved in several after-school activities. The most obvious of these is the spring musical, which, in the past two years, have won 11 Gene Kelly awards for their outstanding performances. Students are also able to partake in masterclasses with those in the field, as well as take field trips to see professional productions. The head of Musical Theatre (and head of the Performing Arts department as a whole), Nick Lenz, is very proud of the connections he has made in his three years of teaching. “I have been sure to find one to two industry projects per school year,” he says, “that have allowed our students to take part in a professional performance experience that gives them learning opportunities in their field.”

While the different projects students have access to are obviously the most defining factor of the program, much praise can be given to the instructors. Sophomore Claudia Pierre spoke out about the level of education teachers like Nick Lenz provide.

“They are very supportive and professional theatre workers, and they have so many connections and access to Theatre in general.” Nick has made sure to develop a professional environment for his department as someone who continues to work in the field. His classes give a glimpse into the real world, showcasing how one might navigate productions in the future.

Outside of the classroom courtesies, the Musical Theatre program fosters a community of love, respect, and hard work. No one could put these ideals better than Claudia: “It’s not going to be like High School Musical.” So much of the department thrives on the commitment to the craft, and what students can do with it. Junior Amerik Ciota describes this perfectly, saying “If you are anything less than super committed to this, you’re not going to enjoy the program. The biggest thing in the Musical Theatre program is community, and strengthening that community through individual circumstances.” It’s the love of theatre and the drive to hone their skill that fuels the learning process of the program.

There is also a word to be said about competition, and how there is no room for it in this community. The program is built to thrive on the efforts of a group and how working together can create art. “You can’t go into this program with a competitive mindset,” Marley says, “At the end, we all have the same goal. We just need to support each other.”

Support: the core value. This department works to create the ideal professional environment for the development of young performers. Singing, dancing, acting; everything is built upon as students walk the Westinghouse path. Through these teachings, however, students build lifelong connections in their field. They are the future of the industry, and the future smiles on the musical theatre students, both those here for years and those just starting out. “I hope that when I graduate,” Marley says, “I can look back and be like, ‘Wow, I did that.’”

Musical Theater Through The Years:

Crazy For You (2018)
Footloose (2019)
9 to 5 (2020; not performed due
to COVID-19 pandemic)
You’re A Good Man, Charlie
Brown (2021)
Gavroche (2021)
Into The Woods (2021)
The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee (2022)
Seussical The Musical (2022)
Joseph And The Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat (2023)
Godspell (2023)
Chicago: Teen Edition (2024)

MEANT 2B: THE WESTINGHOUSE STUDIO ARTS DEPARTMENT

BY IVY SMALL

EVENTS

- Coffee Shop - In collaboration with the Literary Arts department.
- Fall Play - Creates the props, sets, and occasionally costuming.
- Lemonade Stand - In collaboration with the Literary Arts department.
- Craft and Snack - NAHS lead fundraising events, occur several times in the year.
- Spring Musical - Creates the props, sets, and occasionally costuming.
- Arts Fest - End of the year celebration of the work students have created throughout the year!

MANY HIGH SCHOOLS FACE THE SAME STRUGGLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY: A LACK OF RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE ARTS AS A VALUED PILLAR OF EDUCATION. IT CAN BE DIFFICULT FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT AN ARTS-BASED CAREER TO FIND HIGH SCHOOLS WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS TO SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS IN THE INDUSTRY. THERE IS OFTEN TOO LITTLE FUNDING ALLOCATED TO SUPPLIES, FIELD TRIPS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF A PROPER ARTS EDUCATION. THE AIM OF WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY IS TO RECTIFY THIS BY CREATING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT DOES NOT JUST VALUE THE ARTS, BUT CENTERS THE ARTS IN A STUDENT'S EDUCATION. FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A CAREER BASED ON ANY ASPECT OF THE FINE ARTS, THE WAACS STUDIO ARTS PROGRAM CONTAINS EXACTLY WHAT A BUDDING ARTIST NEEDS TO PROPERLY BLOOM IN A WAY NOT OFFERED BY MANY OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

OPPORTUNITIES

WESTINGHOUSE PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ART SCHOLARS TO HELP ADVANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUES. IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, STUDENTS COLLABORATED WITH FRESHMAN FINE ARTS MAJORS AT CARLOW UNIVERSITY TO CREATE A MURAL COMMEMORATING BLACK WOMEN, BRINGING LIGHT TO THE STRUGGLES THEY FACE WHILE RECOGNIZING THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND JOY. THIS PROJECT EARNED THESE STUDENTS A FINE ARTS CREDIT WHICH CAN BE TRANSFERRED AND APPLIED TO PARTICIPATING COLLEGES OF THEIR CHOOSING. WHILE MANY SCHOOLS OFFER COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES FOR STANDARD SUBJECTS, WESTINGHOUSE PROVIDES THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO JUMP AHEAD IN YOUR ART COURSES AS WELL. IN ADDITION TO COLLEGE CREDIT, THE NATIONAL ART HONORS SOCIETY IS AN INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATION STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AS LONG AS THEY HAVE A B OR HIGHER IN THEIR ART CORE CLASSES. STUDENTS WHO PLEDGE TO THE WESTINGHOUSE CHAPTER OF NAHS HELP TO BRING OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH THE ARTS. STUDENTS ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A WIDE VARIETY OF SUPPLIES THEY WOULD OTHERWISE BE UNABLE TO USE.

THE STUDIO ARTS PROGRAM HAS ITS OWN KILNS FOR IN-SCHOOL CERAMICS, OIL PAINT, AND VARIOUS RELATED MEDIUMS, AND A SCREEN PRINTING STUDIO WHICH ALUMNI HAVE USED TO START BUSINESSES. STUDIO ARTS TEACHER AUSTENNE GNIADEK STRESSES THE VERSATILITY OF THE PROGRAM TO ALL NEWCOMERS. "THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS AT WESTINGHOUSE THAT YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE ACCESS TO AT A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL. THERE ARE THINGS OTHER SCHOOLS WOULDN'T EVEN THINK TO INCLUDE. THE ARTS AREN'T JUST VALUED HERE, THEY ARE CELEBRATED. THEY ARE THE CORE OF EVERYTHING WE DO."

COMMUNITY

TECHNICAL SKILL ISN'T THE ONLY THING WESTINGHOUSE CAN HELP STUDENTS BUILD. THIS SCHOOL ALSO HOSTS A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS WHO PUSH EACH OTHER TO GROW AND PUSH PAST THEIR SELF-IMPOSED LIMITS. GNIADEK CAN ALSO ATTEST TO THE SENSE OF BELONGING FELT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE WAACS COMMUNITY. "I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MYSELF HERE DUE TO THE COMFORTABILITY BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS. SO MANY OF THE STUDENTS HERE ARE QUEER, AND A SAFE SPACE LIKE THIS IS NOT FOUND EASILY. THERE ARE NO EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS TO BE ANYONE BUT THEMSELVES, AND THEY ARE GIVEN THE SPACE TO DISCOVER AND EXPLORE EXACTLY WHO THAT IS." STAFF AND STUDENTS DO NOT FEEL AS IF THEY ARE ON OPPOSING TEAMS, BUT ARE INSTEAD COLLEAGUES WORKING TOGETHER TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO PUT THEIR BEST WORK FORWARD. IT IS EASY TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AT WESTINGHOUSE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE STUDIO ARTS HAS THE LARGEST STUDENT BODY OF ANY MAJOR. "THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE YOU CAN CONNECT WITH HERE, THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND EVERYONE WHO CHOOSES TO ATTEND HERE WILL MEET PEOPLE THEY KEEP IN THEIR LIVES FOR A VERY LONG TIME," ADDS CERAMICS TEACHER MAKENNA WINGROVE.

THE STUDIO ARTS CORE MAY BE THE BIGGEST MAJOR AT WESTINGHOUSE, BUT IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT FEEL CROWDED. EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHO JOINS IS WELCOMED AND PROVIDED THE PROPER RESOURCES TO HELP THEM BUILD A UNIQUE ARTISTIC IDENTITY. WESTINGHOUSE CREATES A SAFE SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO BE WITH PEOPLE WHO VALUE THE ARTS AS MUCH AS THEY DO, AND EACH NEW STUDENT HELPS BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY AND HELPS FOSTER EVEN MORE EXPERIENCES FOR THE STUDENT BODY. GNIADEK EMPHASIZES THEIR EXCITEMENT FOR THE INCOMING POPULATION: "THERE ARE ALREADY SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED AT WESTINGHOUSE, AND AS WE GROW AS A SCHOOL WE WILL ONLY GAIN MORE. IF YOU ARE IMPRESSED WITH WHAT WE CURRENTLY OFFER, I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPLY. IT WILL ONLY GO UP FROM HERE."

Theater In The Spotlight

By Rae Cook

David Tennent, Andrew Garfield, Meryl Streep, Alan Cumming, and Emma Stone are just a few beloved movie actors who have also graced a sometimes far more demanding stage – that of theater. And at Westinghouse Arts Academy, Ms. Lustig teaches this inspiring craft to any students willing to learn.

While having to audition for a program may seem daunting, the most important things that Ms. Lustig looks for in prospective students are quite simple: excitement and passion. Not any sort of training, raw talent, or ability, but the willingness and excitement to learn all theater has to offer, not just the acting. What's most important is having fun, and according to Ms. Lustig, "If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong." Along with classes on acting and script analysis, she also offers classes on stage management, stage design, and other technical parts of theater.

All this is because of her own experience with theater in high school. She states, "Not everyone wants to be an actor, so being able to have those opportunities in high school would have been more beneficial for me because I didn't quite have those." The choice to include not only acting classes, but technical classes is also incredibly important, but as theater student Vee Setlock said, "I love acting, but if I were to pursue a job in theater, I'd want to be a director."

These classes explore the work happening behind the curtain - the casting process and how to find the correct actor for a role. How directing a production works - the ins and outs of costume and set design. How different lighting can affect a scene and the importance of sound. The most important part is making sure the production runs smoothly and taking care of any problems that will inevitably come up the day of. This prepares the students for producing the fall plays. While faculty oversees the production, it is mostly student-run, and so the technical classes prepare the students for the roles they take on.

For Ms. Lustig, exploring many types of plays is key in a theater education. "I really want students to be able to have a broad experience, and experience lots of different playwrights than the traditional white, male, canon playwrights."

To do this, she has a rotating schedule of play genres every year. First is a contemporary play, something from the 21st century. Most recently, that play was *She Kills Monsters*, which explores grief and relationships. The next year is a period piece, a Shakespearean drama like *Macbeth*, followed by a modern piece from the 20th century. And finally, a wild card. A play from anytime, anywhere. "It's really giving students a full gambit of experiences," she explains.

This "full gambit" is not only confined to the theater program. The entire student body is made of a diverse mix of backgrounds, ideas, and experiences. And that is what makes WAA such an amazing school, Ms. Lustig says, "Students are free to express themselves, be who they want to be, and that's wonderful." All artists must interact with and encounter different views to gain an understanding of their work and how diverse groups may receive it.

"I've been doing theater since high school, so I've been doing it a while, and if you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong."

—Ms. Lustig



WAA's production of *She Kills Monsters* in the fall of 2022



The fall play of 2023, the Shakespearean classic, *The Tragedy of Macbeth*

Stage Your Vocal Talent At Westinghouse Arts!

- Forrest Smith

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO EXPAND AND GAIN NEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR VOCAL PASSION? WELL, LOOK NO FURTHER, WESTINGHOUSE IS THE PLACE FOR YOU. WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY OFFERS A WONDERFUL VOCAL ARTS PROGRAM THAT COVERS JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DIVERSE AND TALENTED SCENE. CURRENTLY, WESTINGHOUSE HAS TWO AMAZING VOCAL ART STAFF MEMBERS THAT TEACH A MULTITUDE OF FUN CLASSES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO BOTH MAJORS AND NON MAJORS.

REQUIRED CLASSES FOR VOCAL ART MAJORS INCLUDE VOCAL ENSEMBLE, APPLIED VOICE, PIANO, AND MULTIPLE MUSIC LITERACY COURSES. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOCAL ARTS BUT DECIDE TO COME TO WESTINGHOUSE FOR A DIFFERENT MAJOR, THERE ARE CLASSES FOR NON MAJORS THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND OPEN FOR ANYONE. THESE CLASSES INCLUDE CHOIR, SHOW CHOIR, INTRO TO PIANO, AND TECHNOLOGY IN SONGWRITING. IN ADDITION TO CLASSES, VOCAL ARTS MAJORS ARE PROVIDED WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES BOTH IN AND OUT OF WESTINGHOUSE. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WESTINGHOUSE HOLDS MULTIPLE CONCERTS AND SHOWS WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE VOCAL DEPARTMENT. OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL, THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERFORM AT MANY SHOWS IN DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH AT PLACES LIKE RIVER CITY BRASS.

BOTH VOCAL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS LOVE THE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE FREE AND NONRESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT IN THE PROGRAM. TEACHERS ARE FREE TO STRUCTURE THEIR CLASSES IN WAYS THEY WANT THAT BOTH THEY AND THE STUDENTS ENJOY AND FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH. ADDITIONALLY THE STUDENTS ARE FREE TO CHOOSE WHATEVER SONGS THEY'D LIKE TO SING AND PRACTICE, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRANCH OUT AND TRY OUT DIFFERENT STYLES OR GENRES THAT THEY WOULDN'T USUALLY PICK. THROUGH EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT STYLES OF MUSIC, THE STUDENTS ARE GUARANTEED TO LEAVE WESTINGHOUSE WITH A VARIED REPERTOIRE. "I LIKE THAT I CAN CHALLENGE MY VOICE BY BEING ENCOURAGED TO BRANCH OUT INTO DIFFERENT GENRES THAT I NORMALLY WOULDN'T CHOOSE TO SING," SAYS SENIOR DAVID WALWYN-HENDERSON.

EVERYONE STRUGGLES NOW AND AGAIN, BUT THE TEACHERS HERE ARE COMMITTED AND FOCUSED ON HELPING YOU THROUGH THE ROUGH PATCHES. "ONE OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES," RECALLS MR. BERGER, A VOCAL ARTS TEACHER AT WESTINGHOUSE, "WAS WHEN I WAS WORKING ONE ON ONE WITH A STUDENT WHO HAD HIT A ROADBLOCK WHEN TRYING TO GET TO THEIR UPPER REGISTER AND WHEN THEY GOT THERE, THE LOOK ON THEIR FACE WAS SHOCK, HORROR, CRYING ALL AT ONCE AND IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE MOMENT TO WITNESS." SO, EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER SUNG A DAY IN YOUR LIFE, OR HAVE BEEN SINGING SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY WILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN AND EMBRACING ARMS TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL AND VOCAL ART JOURNEY.

VOCAL ARTS PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES

- FALL CONCERT
- WINTER SHOWCASES
- WILMERDING LIGHT UP
NIGHT CAROLLING
- RIVER CITY BRASS
PERFORMANCES
- WAA OPEN MIC NIGHTS
- WAA WORKSHOP CLASSES
- WAA STUDENT SHOWCASES