

MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTE

LAST SEMESTER, KATE AND I MET AND DISCUSSED WHAT MUSICALS WE WOULD POTENTIALLY WANT TO WORK ON. WE WERE ON THE TOPIC OF POP/ROCK MUSICALS AND FAME CAME UP. ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT SEEN THE MUSICAL, I ABSOLUTELY LOVED THE MOVIE. WHEN FAME WAS SELECTED AS THE MUSICAL FOR THIS SEMESTER, I KNEW WE HAD A LOT OF WORK TO DO. THESE PAST TWO MONTHS HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH REHEARSALS, CLASSES, AND MORE REHEARSALS. I AM SO PRIVILEGED TO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH AN AMAZINGLY TALENTED GROUP OF PEOPLE. THEIR ENERGY IN REHEARSALS AND ENTHUSIASM FOR FAME HAVE BEEN EVIDENT IN THEIR "HARD WORK." I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR MAKING MY JOB SO MUCH FUN.

WHETHER THE CAST KNOWS IT OR NOT, THEY'VE BEEN LEARNING CLASSICAL VOCAL TECHNIQUE FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS. YOU WON'T BE HEARING OPERA THIS EVENING, BUT I'VE BEEN TEACHING THEM HOW TO SING HEALTHILY. GOOD SINGING REQUIRES PROPER BREATH SUPPORT AND NOT SINGING "ON THE CORDS." BY SIMPLY LEARNING HOW TO BREATHE PROPERLY, SINGERS CAN AVOID SHOUTING AND TAXING THEIR VOCAL CORDS, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY PREVAILS IN MUSICAL THEATRE THESE DAYS. IT HAS BEEN MY GOAL TO TEACH THIS CAST HOW TO SING IN A WAY THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM FOR YEARS TO COME. I HOPE THEY WILL REMEMBER THE THINGS THEY HAVE LEARNED IN REHEARSAL AND APPLY THEM TO SHOWS THEY DO IN THE FUTURE.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

- NICHOLAS S. FOSTER

CHOREOGRAPHERS' NOTES

IN THE 5TH GRADE, I SANG TO THE THEME SONG OF THE HIT 80s TV SHOW FAME FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TALENT SHOW - IT WAS A DISASTER. AFTER THAT EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD GET THE CHANCE TO PUBLICLY SING TO ONE OF MY FAVORITE MUSICALS GROWING UP AGAIN. THAT IS UNTIL EIGHT YEARS LATER, WHEN DIRECTOR, KATE JOYCE, ASKED ME TO, NOT SING, BUT TO CO-CHOREOGRAPH A SHOW SHE WAS PITCHING. I WAS ALREADY DELIGHTED AND HONORED THAT KATE HAD OFFERED ME SUCH A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY. HOWEVER, WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE SHOW I WOULD BE CHOREOGRAPHING TO WAS FAME, I WAS ECSTATIC TO BE PARTICIPATING IN THE REVIVAL OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY TALE, AND I IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WHIPPING TOGETHER SOME DANCE MOVES!

WHEN RETURNING THIS FALL FOR AUDITIONS, I WAS A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT HOW EVERYTHING WOULD COME TOGETHER. HOWEVER, AUDITIONS WENT FAIRLY WELL, FOR EVERYONE WE CAST HAD OUTSTANDING VOICES! THE ISSUE WAS THEIR DANCING - FOR MOST, THIS WAS NOT THEIR FORTE. NO ONE WAS AN ABSOLUTE WRECK, OR ELSE THEY WOULD NOT CURRENTLY BE BACKSTAGE. NONETHELESS, FOR THE MOST PART, WE HAD A LOT OF "HARD WORK" TO DO! ...NO PUN INTENDED!

AS THE SHOW HAS BEEN CREEPING UP, I HAVE BEEN MORE AND MORE EXCITED FOR OPENING NIGHT! I CANNOT FULLY EXPRESS HOW PROUD I AM OF WHAT THIS CAST HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS. THEY HAVE COME SO FAR, WORKING EXTREMELY HARD - NOT ONLY ON THEIR WEAKER PARTS, BUT THEY IMPROVED IN AREAS THAT I ALREADY CONSIDERED THEM SO STRONG IN. EACH MEMBER WAS ALWAYS EAGER TO LEARN MORE AND SO DEVOTED TO ASSURING THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD BOTH MY AND DOROTHY'S CHOREOGRAPHY SO THAT WE COULD CONSTANTLY BE MOVING FORWARD. THEY GAVE UP THEIR LIVES FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS TO HAVE REHEARSALS WITH ME, WHERE THEY EXPERIENCED MY INSANITY, AND LISTENED TO ME SCREAM, "UP DOWN, UP DOWN!" FOR HOURS (I AM REALLY SORRY TO THOSE OF YOU WHO NOW HAVE DAMAGED EAR DRUMS).

ALL IN ALL, I AM TRULY TOUCHED AND HONORED TO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH A BEAUTIFUL,