



The Court Street Press

DOYLESTOWN, PA • VOLUME 2018-2019 • ISSUE 4 • April 2019

MEET THE CAST BEHIND THIS YEAR'S MUSICAL: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

By Alec Mettin



Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme... The CB west Harlequin Club just performed Beauty and the Beast! In a stunning four-show series, the cast (led by Taylor Mitchell as Belle, Grant Nalty as Beast and Luke Nitschke as Gaston) brought the tale to life before the eyes of a sold-out auditorium. Prior to the show, the cast participated in a "Be Our Guest Breakfast" at Chambers 19, and a fundraiser at the Doylestown Bookshop to prepare for their roles. We sat down with a few of the stars to get their take on the production.

CSP: What was the most difficult part in preparing for your role?

Nora Dowdell, Senior, Babette: "Usually the most difficult part for me is memorizing lines, but since I didn't have that many in this show, it was actually just trying to figure out how to portray the character. Babette is very different than I am, so playing her was definitely a challenge."

Taylor Mitchell, Senior, Belle: "I'd say the most difficult part was the character development. As an actress, it's important to really explore who your character is as a person and how they would react to different situations and people."

Jack Prisco, Sophomore, LeFou: "The character work--both physicality and character voice are very important for LeFou, so I jotted down ideas for movements and expressions to expand upon while performing"

CSP: Of all the amazing scenes, which would you say is your favorite?

Mitchell: "My favorite was the Be Our Guest scene. That was one of the full ensemble numbers; not only did the audience love it, but it looked beautiful with all the costumes and lights, and everyone had such high energy throughout the whole number."

Dowdell: "The finale. It had such an awesome energy since it was after Beast's transformation and everyone was so happy and excited. It was awesome."

Ahr: "I absolutely love the waltz scene, watching Taylor in the iconic yellow dress, dancing with Grant, while singing the song, the whole thing was just so cool."

Luke Nitschke, Senior, Gaston: "Beast's transformation at the end. Everyone in the audience waved around their light-up roses, which was an incredible view from backstage. It gave me chills every time."

CJ Lande, Junior, Cogsworth: "My favorite scene was hands down when Gaston was trying to get Belle to marry him. It was so funny."

CSP: What excited you most about Beauty and the Beast?

Dowdell: "Honestly, I was most excited for the costumes. Our costumes were an absolute blast this year and our costume designer, Robyn, did a fabulous job."

Nitschke: "The show opened my mind to how connected I can be with a group of people. Everyone worked so hard to create something really beautiful. I never thought I could be so proud of something that I did. I am forever changed because of this show."

Mitchell: "The thing that excited me most is how much of a fan favorite it was, especially to kids. Along with having tons of kids attend the shows all dressed up in Disney princess dresses, we also had multiple events to spread awareness about the show. I loved being able to inspire others through our production, especially our younger audience members."

CSP: How would you classify this production as compared to those you've done in the past?

Mitchell: "Compared to the other productions I have been a part of, this one holds a special place in my heart because of how connected the cast was. I have never been in a show where I was such close friends with so many people. Because of that, the on-stage chemistry really came naturally to all of us, overall making the production really great."

Dowdell: "I've had fun in all of the productions I've done with the Harlequin Club, but this one takes the cake. We all had such an awesome time at rehearsals, and I think we absolutely killed the performances. I just wish we could keep doing more shows!"

Ahr: "This production was above and beyond anything I've ever seen West put on! The amount of talent we have in unbelievable, and it really showed in how amazing the show turned out to be."

CSP: How excited are you for next year's musicals, Chicago in the fall and Les Misérables in the spring?

Ahr: "I can't wait to come back to see the shows, I know everyone is going to kill it!"

Lande: "I cannot wait for Les Mis next year! The fact that we are doing two musicals is so amazing!"

Congratulations to the entire cast, crew and pit of Beauty and the Beast for a spectacular show!

STUDENT FEATURE:

OWEN SHIELDS, LEADER AND ATHLETE

By Kristen Rice

As a recipient of the 'Most Involved' Yearbook Superlative, Owen Shields' influence fills every corner of the Central Bucks West community. Shields is the President of the Senior Class Council. He has also participated in The Anti-Defamation League, to help combat prejudice in the district. Shields is a leader on the field as well, as West football's receiver, ice hockey forward, and 400/800 track runner. As a three-sport athlete and a community leader, some may wonder why and how he does it.

"I've been able to meet a wide range of students from West beyond my friend group through my various activities." When asked about the legacy Owen would like to leave at West, he stated that he would like to be known as "caring by looking after those who he works with, considerate of other people's opinions, and helpful". Owen loved his experiences at West and wishes only that he could have been more involved, particularly in athletics. Shields values his experiences on the field above all else, because "comradery is brought together by sports." Shields' advice towards students is to "get involved in as many activities as you can and try to have a busy schedule, which is good for college and makes the day goes by faster." In addition, Shields emphasizes: "Don't stress, live in the moment with your friends." Owen goes on to say that, "Everyone at West has made my high school career, nothing short of pleasurable, it has been an honor to go to West with these great people, I couldn't imagine going to a different high school because I love it here. Go Bucks!"



AUTHOR'S NOTE: Shields also wanted to comment that "Kristen Rice is remarkable. She has been an influential key leader in making our class council efficient, and helps every activity run as smoothly as possible, especially Homecoming."

WEST BASEBALL PREVIEW

By Eli Baylin



As flowers begin to come out, so do the CB West spring teams. The West baseball team looks to improve this year after finishing last year's season at 3-16. New Head Coach, Brian Weaver, has a lot of talent this year and thinks they can make some noise. The University of Delaware commitment, Matthew Cooper, and second basemen, Rhys Nicholas, look forward to using their senior experience to lead the boys to a winning record. Junior Tommy Comes will bring his Whiz Kids talents over to War Memorial Field for the Bucks by flashing his leather at the shortstop position. Center Fielder, Ryan Rudek, looks to use his speed and agility on the bases as Matt McCarthy will provide a key bat to the Bucks' lineup. "It's a really fun team to be a part of this year. There is a constant flow of energy from the hallways at school to the dugout on the field. We all love going to work for each other. I'm glad I can say that I have their backs and they have mine" says outfielder Nate Bash. Nicholas adds, "I think the team feels confident this year because we have a rare combination of shut down pitchers and an offense that can put up crooked numbers every time we step into the batter's box. Everyone gets along and there's a great vibe in the locker room. We've struggled the last few years but we're ready to hang a new banner in the gym this year." Show out this spring to watch the baseball team ball out as they head into the season with high hopes. Go, Bucks!



WHY IS MINI-THON IMPORTANT TO YOU?

By Mattelyn Beahan

This past month, CB West held its annual Mini-Thon event to raise money to conquer childhood cancer and I asked a few participating members about the event and the impact it had on the community.

"Cancer is very common in my family. Each generation has 2-5 people diagnosed with all different types. I didn't know that though, until my sister was diagnosed with neuroblastoma when she was 5 months old. So, I participated in Mini-Thon in memory of my relatives and in honor of my baby sister. It's important to me because my sister knows I'm involved, and I want her to know she will always be supported and that she is a miracle (no doctor thought she would turn 1 year old) and she shouldn't forget either of those things. The event itself went very well! We had more than 100 people there and, for hosting it alone at West for the first time, that's amazing. Those who went said it was very moving and fun and they want to do it again next year! Mini-Thon brought people together - people who have been touched by cancer in some way and people who only know what it is. It allowed for everyone to hear different stories, including my own, and to see cancer from different perspectives: the mother of a cancer survivor, the father, the sister, and the survivor. I saw many tears and many hugs were given and overall, I really think it was good for the community to feel the good vibes that were in the air and the empathy we have for each other. Many places donated to the cause and it was great to know we have many close supporters."

-Jackie Diones, Junior

"I participated because my family is super involved with Penn State and it's for such a great cause to help those who need it. The event was great and I was super happy with the turnout. It was so fun dancing and the speakers showed us how much this meant to them. I fundraised by reaching out to all my family members and we fundraised at school by selling t-shirts, candy, food, and canning at sporting events. We raised over \$16,000 and it brought together so many people who wouldn't cross paths on a regular basis. Mini-Thon is important to me because everyone knows someone who is affected by cancer and to reach out and help them means the world to me."

-Maddy McGarry, Junior

"What motivated me to help start the first annual Mini-Thon at CB West was the idea of having an event to bring the school together for a good cause. I wanted to start something that would grow over the next few years. The event went as smooth as possible and I feel like everyone had a good time, but I think as it continues to grow with more people, it will be even more fun. Our biggest fundraisers came from canning outside sporting events and getting local businesses involved with our event. I think it impacted the community in a great way to start an event where all of West can come together and the community can come see our efforts toward fighting childhood cancer and experience the event for themselves. Mini-Thon is important to me because I want childhood cancer to be cured one day, so that no one has to go through those struggles at such a young age."

-Owen Vrancken, Senior

THE REVIEW

MUSIC REVIEW: *THE GOLD EXPERIENCE* BY PRINCE

By Michael Brennan

Prince's 1995 release *The Gold Experience* is brilliant—although some may argue overproduced—the masterpiece of 90s R&B, marking the 17th album to come out of Prince's impressive discography. The album's 18 track listing is divided up by tracks titled "NPG Operator". These six tracks are 10-20 second clips of audio that are meant to simulate interaction with one of those automated phone operators—the idea feels a little out of place but works well enough that they're not that big of a deal. "P. Control", the first song on the album is a bop in itself whose lyrics—although fairly explicit—offer a pretty neat message about female empowerment. A lot of the songs on this album are brilliantly composed as seen in the progressive nature of songs like "Shhh", "Eye Hate U", and "Gold". The album's closing track echoes the sound of "Purple Rain" in good ol' 90s fashion. Overall, *The Gold Experience's* constant upbeat vibe serves as a great album to revisit and serves as a nice introduction for newcomers to Prince's impressive career. Check it out!



BOOK REVIEWS

DEAR RACHEL MADDOW: A NOVEL: 9/10 STARS

By Cat Both

Dear Rachel Maddow: A Novel by Adrienne Kisner begins with an email from a reluctant Brynn as a result of an assignment from her English teacher, but she continues to write emails even after the assignment is completed. As the time goes on, she starts to reveal more and more information about her life and the struggles she faces— emotional abuse from her stepfather, the untimely death of her brother and close friend, plummeting grades, failed romances.

After the first half of the school year, full of sulking and attempting to raise her grade point average, Brynn faces a significant moral crossroad. A single student representative is allowed to hold a seat among the righteous administration in the decision of a new school superintendent. Brynn's longtime adversary, Adam, and ex-girlfriend, Sarah, argue that only Honors students should be part of the selection committee seat. Brynn knows all students in the school deserve a chance and decides to stand up for the rights of everyone, not just the minority. The moment Brynn decides to finally run for the position, the people she thinks she can trust turn against her.

Adrienne Kisner's *Dear Rachel Maddow* is a perfect reflection of modern adolescence. The book is exactly like how a young adult novel should be— raw, emotional, and honest. The book follows the main character, Brynn, through a series of e-mails written to her role model (to whom the title alludes to). The book's unconventional style gives the reader a somewhat limited view of what Brynn is experiencing throughout her youth, yet still tells the story in a way that is still engaging and structured.

A MILLION JUNES: 10/10 STARS

By Amelia Betancourt

In Emily Henry's *A Million Junes*, Jack "June" O'Donnell IV, the youngest in a long line of Jack O'Donnell's, steps – literally – into a spiral of messages and memories sent to her from her father who passed away when she was eight years old. Her family has had one strict rule, to stay away from the Angert family, who the O'Donnell's have been feuding with for generations. But when she finds her life intertwined with Saul Angert's, June's world turns upside down. Aspects of her life which she had always found comforting become haunting and unfamiliar, and events too magical for even the enchanting town of Five Fingers unfurl around her. She and Saul are sent onto a journey to unearth the real truth behind their families long-lived feud, the curse that lurks around them and their loved ones, and perhaps to find a way to break it for good, even if that means putting themselves through pain – and maybe worse – for the sake of those they care for.

I would strongly encourage anyone to try this book. It has a little bit of something for everybody – magical realism, ghosts, curses, haunted houses, love, and a Romeo and Juliet-esque forbidden relationship. By the time you finish this book, you may want to pick it up and start all over; luckily, Henry has three other novels, so if you – like me – are looking for another equally magical and enthralling book, you're in luck!



MOVIE REVIEW: *CAPTAIN MARVEL*

By August McBride

Going into this movie, I had no idea what *Captain Marvel* was all about. I only knew that she made Shazam change his name with the all-powerful sword of COPYRIGHT, but I'm told she will be important in the next *Avengers* movie, so I wanted to check it out. Plus, I couldn't miss the Skrulls big screen debut.

Captain Marvel, also known as Carol Danvers (Brie Larson), is a half-human, half-Kree warrior who discovers her power in this film. *Captain Marvel* is not perfect, but I don't think it's in a superhero movie's genes to be perfect. It definitely succeeded in being a fun action movie, and that's all you really need. Everything looked cool, there were just the right amount of fight scenes and it felt very different from other Marvel movies. Refreshing.

The villains are also good. Notice I say "villains," plural. I won't spoil anything, but there's a nice shake-up towards the end of the movie for you to look forward too. The Skrulls were always fun to watch, though their costumes could have been better.

Captain Marvel herself was sort of cliché. She was the usual tough girl hero stereotype, but Brie Larson played the part well. The film had a unique plot and set variation, but some parts felt like they dragged and there were a few scenes that included a painfully obvious political message. I also felt that the jokes in this movie could have been better. There wasn't as much humor as in other Marvel movies and I would very much prefer if it took itself a bit less seriously. Samuel L. Jackson brought the most laughs to the film. This movie was meant to get us excited for *Endgame*, and I believe it did the job well.

CSP Rating: 7.5/10



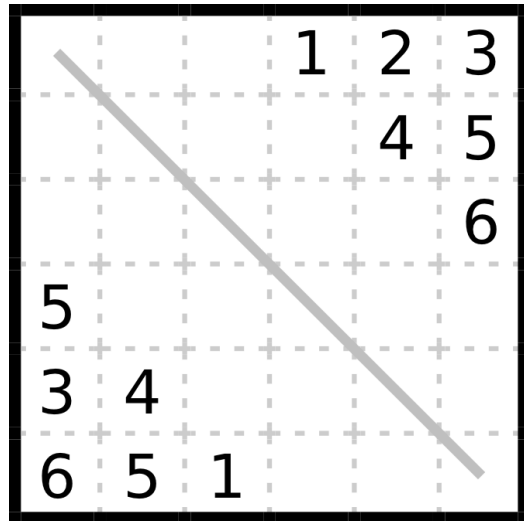
WALKER'S PUZZLES

By Walker Anderson

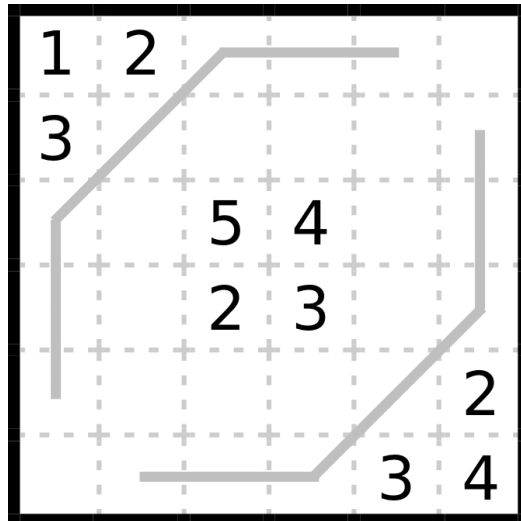
Palindrome Square

Place the digits 1 to 6 once each in every row and column of the grid. Reading along a bold gray line, in either direction, must produce a palindrome, a number that is the same forwards and backwards.

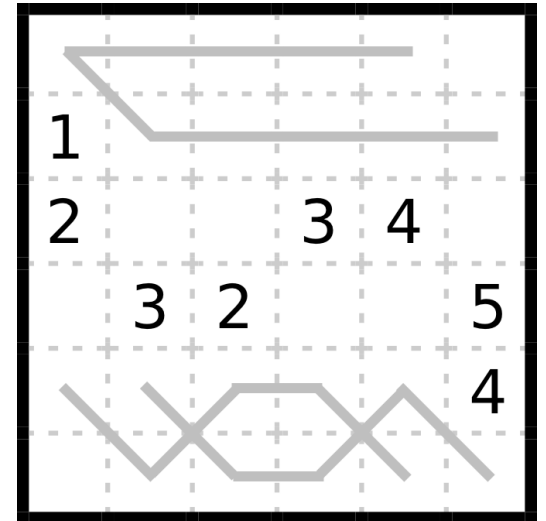
Good luck!



Easy



Moderate



Difficult

STUDENT FEATURE: SAM SMITH (HE'S GOT WHEELS!)

By Liam Price

Sam Smith, you may know him as the smart, funny, and outgoing sophomore in your biology class, all of which are true, but did you know that he is a national medalist in velodrome cycling? Sam's father is an avid road cyclist and got Sam on a road bike at a young age. Eventually, in 7th grade, Sam started racing with his buddies at some organized bike races. At the same time, he began to bike on the velodrome in Trexlertown, Pa. To those who have never seen a velodrome before, it is a track for biking, consisting of steeply banked curves. It is an exhilarating sport to watch, and very competitive. Last year, Sam participated in Nationals, competing with kids across the country. He managed to get medals in both the scratch and tempo race.

Each week, Sam rides his bike for about ten hours, which is usually around 150 miles! On top of that, he goes to the gym three times a week. To Sam, biking is a passion. Sam says that, "everyone I've met biking is really nice and friendly. Don't be nervous to talk to someone going on a ride. Make sure you have fun with it. The people and opportunities make biking awesome. It's a sport where people support each other, and you can go anywhere on the earth to ride."

Although Sam doesn't wear a CB West uniform to bike, he, along with many other talented students from our school, still represent CB West when they compete and perform. Their unique and diverse passions are a part of the richness of CB West and help achieve its core values. It is not rare that spectators are awed by an outstanding biker in a race, and are told: "that's Sam. He's from Doylestown and goes to Central Bucks West."

HEARD IN THE HALLS

If we heard you and quoted your conversation we do not mean to insult you or your conversations in anyway (we are assuming that in context it made sense...). We are simply having a laugh and making you aware of the fact that *we can hear you, Matt.*

- "What if everybody was a stick figure? Like our heads would be the same, but our bodies would be sticks."
- "One time, I was on a camping trip, and this kid didn't cook the sausage right!!"
- "I'm both more talented and better looking!"
- "I feel kinda bad though, we can't be too mean to him."
- "Not to mention I feel like a dumpster."
- "I think I could identify as a mollusk."
- "I glued my fingers together, Ryan!"
- "I'm dedicating 25% of my power to keeping my pants on."
- "I always have to have some kind of Big Time Rush in my head."
- "Who says 'Yeehaw'?"
- "One time I brought an avocado and a piece of bread, like this is avocado toast. Don't judge my lunch guys!"
- "HEY!! You dumped my lemonade!!..... WHY??"
- "I'm like Handsome Squidward, but in my brain."
- "I'm existing in a perpetual state of insane."

By Amelia Betancourt



By Connor Sturza

THE COURT STREET PRESS Staff 2018-2019

Editors:	Eli Baylin	Mattelynn Beahan
	Gabi Lamb	Cat Both
	Kristen Rice	Alec Mettin

Staff:	Walker Anderson	August McBride
	Michael Brennan	Liam Price
	Amelia Betancourt	Connor Sturza

Advisor: Mrs. D'Alonzo

Interested in joining CSP? Email cbwestnewspaper@gmail.com!