make 'em laugh, make 'em cry

How Young Thespians At Nathan Bishop Are Rising To The Challenge

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It's already been an exciting year at the Nathan Bishop Drama Club. In December the group received rave reviews from audiences for its unassuming and truly entertaining show featuring two one-act plays: "Homicide Meets Mr. Gold Medal" by Gordon Korman and "The Audition" by Don Zolidis. "Putting on these two short plays and running for four performances gave the kids an opportunity to get as much time in front of an audience as possible—and they really rose to the occasion," says Glenn Zienowicz, the drama club's executive director.

The first play, "Homicide Meets Mr. Gold Medal," was a hilarious take on what can go wrong when middle school students try to outsmart their gym teacher. With energetic, charming performances by the entire cast, this play was laugh-out-loud hilarious.

After a brief intermission, "The Audition" offered a perfect blend of humor and heartbreak as it spotlighted a diverse group of auditioning actors through their relationships with their parents and their peers. "I was so proud of how the kids pushed themselves and really shone," says Jackie Davis, co-director of the production.

It gets even better this spring!
The December show was also a bit of a warm-up for the drama club's spring production of the ancient Greek tragedy "Antigone" by Sophocles. "We don't want people to think 'Antigone' and want to scratch their eyes out because that was 'Oedipus,' jokes Zienowicz. "We are pulling out all the stops to make this production spectacular, but we also want it to be relevant. Even though the play is 3,000 years old, the themes are still universal." Audiences can look forward to seeing an updated adaptation of the ancient classic that is set in the 1930s with a fictitious monarchy, complete with '30s-era costumes, music, and choreography.

Now in its third year, the Nathan Bishop Drama Club is an after-school program offered through the Providence After School Alliance (PASA), whose mission is to provide quality after-school learning opportunities for the youth of Providence. This year, the Drama Club continues its partnership with Trinity Repertory Company with veteran actress Jackie Davis joining as co-director. In addition, Lee Osorio, a third-year MFA student at Brown University, has led workshops to prepare the students for their roles in "Antigone."

"Antigone" is playing May 12, 13, 14, and 15 at Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions Street, Providence. For more information, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NathanBishopDramaClub to get updates.

The Nathan Bishop Drama Club relies on community support to make its vision a reality. To make a donation, please visit www.gofundme.com/NBdramaclub.

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