

Tom Joput

2014/15 OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

TOMMY AWARDS

RECOGNIZE, HONOR & ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER

Vol. 3 Issue 4

March 2015

Overture Center's Tommy Awards Newsletter

Break a leg to all the cast, crew, pit and production teams of the upcoming shows! The next issue of the newsletter will be a Tommy Awards Ceremony Special. Just a reminder that the 2015 Tommy Award recipients will be announced early May and the Jimmy Awards Auditions will be held Saturday, May 30. A **tentative** rehearsal schedule for the 2015 Tommy Awards Ceremony is listed on our website. The final schedule will be completed by May 22, 2015.

All the best,

Karra Beach
Programming & Community Engagement Coordinator

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P.S. You can unsubscribe from Tommy Newsletter e-mails at any time by replying to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



MAMMA MIA! - TOMMY AWARDS DISCOUNT TICKET OFFER & EVENT SPECIALS

As a student, parent or educator from a school that participates in The Tommy Awards, Overture would like to offer you discounted tickets to attend Mamma Mia! **These \$25.00 discounted tickets are available to the Thursday, April 30th performance at 7:30pm.**

With this exclusive offer, you also have the opportunity to take a workshop with a member of the cast and attend a fun and educational discussion about the show at a "Mocktails with Tim." The format for this event will be similar to the program "Cocktails with Tim," which is a perk for our Broadway subscribers held prior to the Broadway performances. We will discuss the making of the show, about jukebox musicals - the hits and the flops, as well as discuss what's happening on Broadway.

All three parts of the evening are "a la carte" - meaning you choose which parts you'd like to attend.

To order tickets, visit our [website](#).

Workshop (no additional charge)

4:15-5:45 PM - Wisconsin Studio

Join a cast member from the Broadway touring production of Mamma Mia for an educational dance workshop. All levels are welcome, wear clothes and shoes you can dance in. There are a limited number of spots available.

Mocktails with Tim - \$5.00/per person

6-7 PM - Wisconsin Studio

Join Tim Sauers, VP of Programming and Community Engagement and Karra Beach, Tommy Awards Program Coordinator, for a fun and educational night discussing Mamma Mia, and Broadway. Dinner and "mocktails" will be provided to those attending.

Mamma Mia! - \$25 each!

7:30 PM - Overture Hall

Over 50 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make MAMMA MIA! the ultimate feel-good show!

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Support your fellow Tommy participants and see the fantastic work they are doing! Check our [website](#) for more information!

Congratulations to the cast, crew, and production teams at these schools who had performances last weekend:
 Greendale (Guys & Dolls), Beloit Memorial (Shrek - the Musical), Waukesha South (The Wiz), Whitnall (Once On This Island), Edgewood (Mary Poppins), Portage (Godspell), Columbus (Grease), Holmen (The Addams Family), Mauston (Shrek - The Musical), New Glarus (Once Upon A Mattress), and Wauwatosa West (The Addams Family).

Osseo-Fairchild's 2014 production of Footloose



Matt Marsland as Daddy Warbucks in St Ambrose's 2014 production of Annie

The Addams Family
[Wauwatosa West High School](#)
 MAR 27 & 28 | 7 PM

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
[Osseo-Fairchild High School](#)
 MAR 26 - 28 | 7:30 PM
 MAR 29 | 2 PM

Big Fish
[Monona Grove High School](#)
 APR 9 - 11 | 7:30 PM
 APR 11 & 12 | 2 PM

The Music Man
[St Ambrose Academy](#)
 APR 17 & 18 | 7 PM
 APR 19 | 2 PM



Sam Ness & Kristine Gruwell as Marius & Eponine in Sauk Prairie's 2014 Les Misérables.

Gabriella Klotz as Sister Mary Amnesia in Pius XI's fall production of Nunsense-Terry Clark Bauman



West Side Story
[Pius XI High School](#)
 APR 23 - 25 | 7 PM
 APR 26 | 2 PM

Pippin
[Middleton High School](#)
 APR 30 - MAY 2 | 7:30 PM

Disney's Beauty & the Beast
[Sauk Prairie High School](#)
 APR 30 - MAY 2 | 7 PM
 MAY 3 | 2 PM

Oklahoma!
[Abundant Life Christian School](#)
 APR 30 - MAY 2 | 7:30 PM
 MAY 2 | 2:30 PM

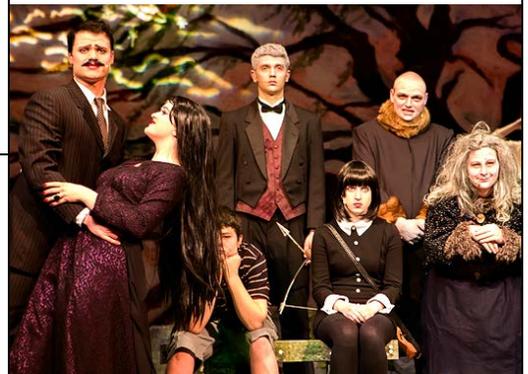


Henry Lynch & Megan Armstrong in Tosa East's fall production of Curtains

Cinderella
[Evansville High School](#)
 MAY 1 & 2 | 7:30 PM
 MAY 2 | 1 PM
 MAY 3 | 2 PM

Tarzan
[Wauwatosa East High School](#)
 MAY 1 & 2 | 7:30 PM
 MAY 3 & 10 | 2 PM
 MAY 8 & 9 | 7:30 PM

Evansville's 2014 production of The Addams Family



** = New school in the Tommy Awards Program in 2013-14

PETER PAN LIVE!



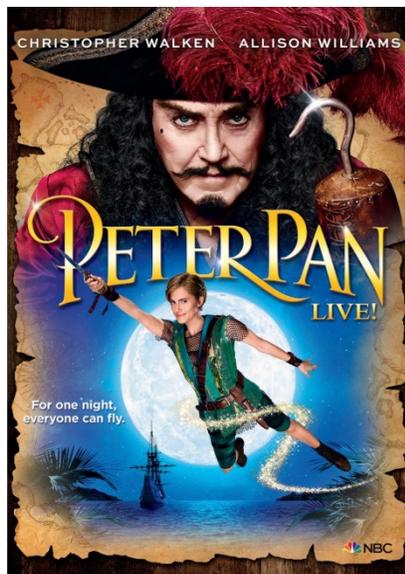
Michael Hartung, a 2014 graduate of the University of Michigan's Musical Theatre BFA program, was recently featured as a Lost Boy in Peter Pan Live! He is currently residing in New York City where he can be seen in various concerts and developing new projects. Here is his story about his experience on Peter Pan Live! from his audition to the

live broadcast.

I'm 8 years old, sitting in my basement in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin watching Cathy Rigby effortlessly fly across my television screen. My eyes are wide as I dream of one day doing just that: dancing and singing, and perhaps even flying, on a big stage with thousands watching.

Flash forward 15 years. I've just graduated from college with an expensive BFA in Musical Theatre, moved to New York, found an agent, and am auditioning like crazy. I quickly learned that every audition you will go on in New York is different. My audition for 'Peter Pan Live' was no exception. I only auditioned in person once for the production. This was unusual as it is not uncommon during the audition process to go in three, four, five, or even more times. I was called in for an initial audition by the music director who had seen my Senior Showcase (the culmination of the BFA program at University of Michigan). Immediately after my audition I left New York for a summer job in St Louis (not the most ideal time to leave if there are going to be callbacks and such). A week later I got a call to come back in to dance. Unfortunately, there was no way I could get back in between rehearsals in St Louis. I was sure it was over! Surprisingly, they let me send in a video of my dancing and from there all I could do was send good vibes. I didn't hear anything for 3 months, until one day I got a call from my agent. I BOOKED THE JOB!

Peter Pan Live! is the second live television production of a musical by NBC. Their first production, The Sound of Music Live! drew over 18 million viewers. They are planning to air a live version of The Music Man in 2015.



One month later I was on my way to the first day of rehearsal. I was so excited I seriously could have peed my pants. I found myself in a rehearsal room with people I had studied in school, seen on Broadway, and admired from afar. What was so great was that it didn't take long for these people to turn into my friends. The Lost Boys and Allison (Peter Pan) bonded right away. We started a group text, ate lunch together, and went out after rehearsal together. Rehearsal was hard work, but it also could not have been more fun. And, of course, Christopher Walken was hysterical.

The entire rehearsal process was two months long. That is pretty lengthy for any show, but there were a lot of different factors to consider with this particular production. We rehearsed for a month in a studio in Manhattan. These rehearsals were exactly what we would do rehearsing for a production on the stage. Blocking, choreography, music, character work: all things you would expect.



Michael (far left in black coat & white shirt) as a Lost Boy in Peter Pan Live!

After the first month we moved to the actual TV set on Long Island where we would shoot the show a month later. Walking onto the Never Land set for the first time - it was unlike anything I had seen, let alone been able to work (and play) on! They built the set inside huge airplane hangars. The set was almost 360 degrees around and the size of half a football field. This was an actor's dream! It was here that we spent the next month rehearsing. These rehearsals were very different from that of a stage production. Now we were "choreographing" where the cameras would be and how they worked with our blocking. They created complicated shots in and around us, and that took a lot of time. We squeezed in cleaning rehearsals when we weren't working with the cameras. Our down time was spent in our personal trailers outside of the sets.

The night of the broadcast was unlike anything I had experienced before. There was so much energy on set! Performing without a live audience might have been odd, but we had practiced for two months, preparing for what that would be like. We were ready to handle anything!

Before we knew it, it was over! The set erupted in applause and everyone let out a collective sigh of relief. Our cast party afterwards was on the Never Land set, a perfect setting to celebrate the work we had done over the last two months. It was a night I'll never forget, and one that 8 year old Michael would never believe.

FORT ATKINSON STUDENTS ON TV!

Students from Fort Atkinson High School were included as extras for a recent episode of, "Chicago Fire." Students were interviewed by Zach Neugent on the NBC 15 News Team. The following is from his article from March 17:

Choir member Sarina Halvorsen tells us, "I was freaking out, I was like 'oh my gosh, this is so exciting, like I'm really going to do this, holy cow,' it was so fun."

Abraham Martinez, also a choir member, says, "You know, you watch these tv shows and then you know it's like a five minute scene, and we were there for probably a scene that's only three minutes long in the show, but we were there for about five hours."

The students served as extras in a funeral scene for a taping of "Chicago Fire." Although the episode airs tonight, the taping took place last month.

Jocelyn McGurk explains, "It was interesting to see how they put everything together"

Jordan Roehling agrees, "Yeah, the process was a lot different than I thought it would be at least." 7

Halvorsen adds, "You kind of get to see the actors on a personal level, like the one preacher that kept messing his lines up, it was really fun to watch."

The taping has been the talk of the class and an opportunity that won't soon be forgotten.



Nikolai Vechinsky says, "A lot of us haven't really left this area, and to go down to Chicago and see all the different, to see all the different people down there and all the buildings, it was really a kind of cool experience."

MARCUS CENTER & OVERTURE ANNOUNCE 2015/16 SEASONS

Interested in seeing great Broadway shows next year? [Marcus Center](#) and [Overture Center](#) both just announced their 2015/16 seasons and the lineups are fantastic! Both centers are taking subscriptions and group sales now so it's a great time to plan some Broadway in your upcoming year.



HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO BALLET TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP



Hubbard Street Dance Chicago is among the most original forces in contemporary dance. As one of the only professional dance companies to perform year-round, Hubbard Street is continually touring nationwide and internationally. Now in its 37th year, the main company has appeared in celebrated dance venues in 44 states and 19 countries.

This ballet master class will be based on Hubbard Street artists' daily practice before rehearsals and performances. The class will utilize the latest in contemporary dance pedagogy, and will emphasize moving with clarity, precision and musicality; dancers are encouraged to intelligently assess and optimize their unique physical capabilities, within the context of rigorous, unaffected, classical technique. For intermediate and advanced dancers.

Taught by Lucas Crandall, Hubbard Street Rehearsal Director
WED, APR 15, 10-11:30 AM
Wisconsin Studio, Overture Center 3rd Floor

Cost: \$15, free for Hubbard Street ticket holders
Register: www.surveymonkey.com/s/JKRQ2X8

For more information contact Beth Racette,
eracette@overturecenter.org 608.258.4169