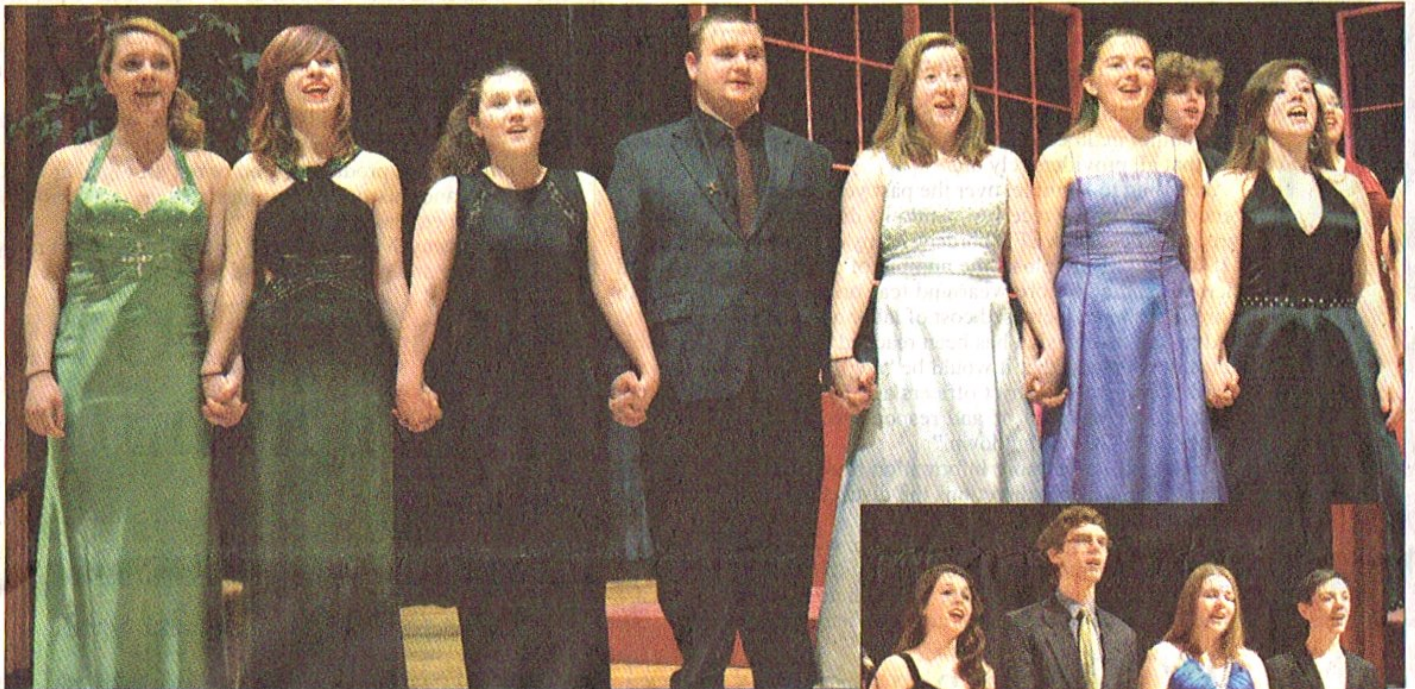


# Love, Broadway Style

CHS pays tribute to stage classics in spring production



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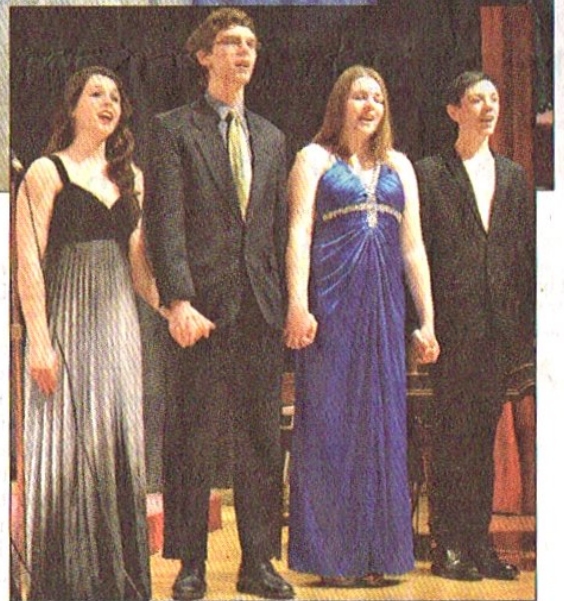
COVENTRY— Starting last night, students from Coventry Drama will be hosting their annual spring play, except this time, it'll be a collaboration of various New York plays in an ode to Broadway.

Mychael Wilkinson, Theatre Director at the high school, explained that multiple snow days and students being sick made it difficult for them to practice and put together a full play so two weeks ago he thought up an original piece.

"I had students pick pieces they wanted and we'll be doing a showcase," he said. "I told them they could sing, dance and

Coventry High students perform a number from the hit musical "Rent" at a dress rehearsal for their spring production, which debuted last night and will feature encore performances on the high school auditorium's stage tonight and tomorrow.

Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times



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# Broadway focus of CHS thespians

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act and we put it together into a showcase called "To Broadway With Love."

He said the two-hour performance is a salute to the greats of Broadway and a salute to New York theatre.

"I adapted the set, shrunk it and changed it and then we brought a grand piano to put on stage," he added. "We painted the set love red to go with the love theme and a lot of things are about love in it. We kept it very classy and simple."

He said the 27 students have chosen to sing, dance and act scenes from 17 different plays including "Anything Goes," "Les Miserables," "Hairspray," and "Rent".

"We'll also be doing something from a brand new play that's coming to Broadway and lastly, Disney is developing a Frozen play so we're doing a song from "Frozen" because it's coming to Broadway," he explained.

Wilkinson said some of the students will be reciting poetry from Broadway in between scenes to "connect" and transition them smoothly.

To make a connection between the middle and high school, he said he invited middle schooler Paige McGovern, who played Annie during Alan Shawn Middle School's play last week, to perform her scene in the high school's spring play.

Junior Chelsea Shea, who's performing "Broadway Baby" from "Chicago" during the opening scene, explained that doing this production was much different than others she had performed in.

"It gives us more freedom because we got the opportunity to pick our own song and who we wanted to sing it with so that was really cool," she added. "My scene will be opening the show and I did 'Hair' and got to open that show, so it's sentimental."

Sophomore Lillian Brietzke, who's performing "Pulled" from "The Addams Family," agreed with Shea about the show giving people the chance to stand out on their own.

"Normally there are only a handful of people who have a chance to shine and in this one it gives more people their chance to shine," she said.

Because the students were given two weeks to practice, many of them said it has been fun, but "hectic."

Ben Desjarlais, sophomore, explained that this is his second show at the high school and all of the students have put in a lot of work.

"Every day we have an hour and a half of advisory period and a few of us have spent that time coming down to the music room and working on our songs together," he said.

Sami Gobin, senior, said some days were worse than others but, "we've been giving it our all."

"Usually with a production you're not all together until the last month and this time we're all together and it brought us closer together," he said.

"To Broadway With Love" will be held tonight — Friday — and Saturday at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.