

# CHS drama brings familiar tale to stage

## High school's drama club bringing Lizzie Borden back to life

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COVENTRY— The Coventry High School Drama Club is putting on a production titled “Lizzie Borden” this weekend at the high school’s auditorium. This will be the 29th play in the last 17 years by Director and teacher at CHS, Myke Wilkinson.

All 14 students involved have been practicing for eight weeks and are ready to showcase their hard work to everyone in the community. The production has three shows on Thursday, Nov. 13, Friday, Nov. 14 and Saturday, Nov. 15, with doors opening at 6 p.m.

The Lizzie Borden production was written in the 1980’s and because the story is relevant locally, Wilkinson thought it was a great choice for this year’s fall show.

In 1892, Lizzie Borden of Fall River, Massachusetts was tried and acquitted of murdering with an axe her father and step-mother.

The show takes place over one year’s time, with the instances leading up to the two murders and then her trial.

“This case was what everyone talked about before the OJ Simpson case,” Wilkinson said. “It involved quite a commitment and these students certainly have it.”



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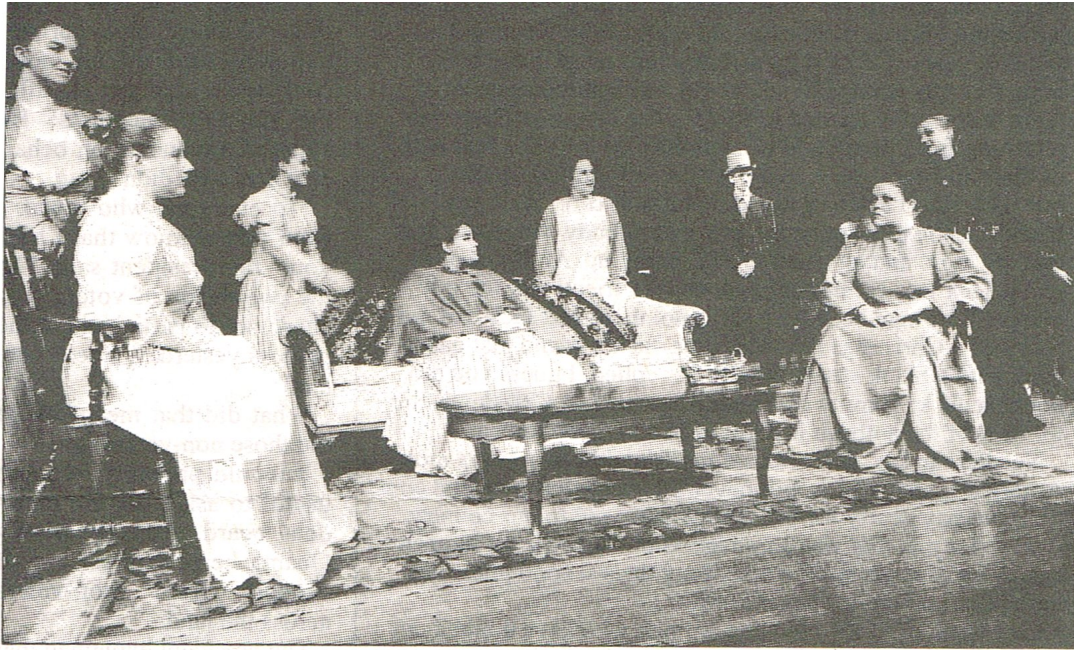
Coventry High School freshman Sabrina Peltier (seated) will portray the title character in the play “Lizzie Borden when the curtains rise on the school’s drama club this weekend.

A freshman, Sabrina Peltier, is playing this year’s lead role as Lizzie Borden. She has never acted in a performance before she decided to try out for the part. Peltier is very excited for her debut and said she

plans on being in the drama club for her entire high school career.

“I enjoy how everyone is so close,”

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The props are sparse on stage at Coventry High during the drama club's performance of "Lizzie Borden," a production centering on the infamous Fall River girl acquitted of murdering her father and stepmother with an axe.

## Drama club at Coventry High bringing back 'Lizzie Borden'

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Peltier said. "I have never acted before coming to Coventry High but I'm not that nervous."

Playing Lizzie Borden's sister, Emma, Coventry senior Madison Cook-Hines has been with the drama club since her freshman year. Working alongside the very experienced Wilkinson has benefited her throughout the years, she explained.



"The plays are always challenging and it takes a lot of hard work," Cook-Hines said. "Our attitude is always as professional as possible and it's good to know we are going to always put on something excellent."

Wilkinson has many years of professional acting under his belt and has directed over 100 plays and musicals. He explained that he looks at the drama club as a business, as his own theatre company, because they always put on amazing shows and have a lot of talent.

In the past, Wilkinson said, Coventry drama club students have won state contests with theatre productions and have completed world premier musicals. He will, however, never repeat the same production twice, he said.

The props for the show are minimal because Wilkinson wants to focus more on the acting. The very vigorous program he runs allows the students flourish and grow as an actor or actress, he explained.

The entire cast and crew of the Lizzie Borden production includes Peltier, AJ Wilson, Katie McCarthy, Brelynn Watson, Madison and Devlin Cook-Hines, Maggie Polk, Kyle Dante, Tyler Keener, Rebecca Green, Max Cinquegrana, Nick Ianiero, Delaney Ryan and Rachel Bennett.

Tickets can be purchased when doors open for each show at 6 p.m.. Curtain call is at 7 p.m. and the show runs roughly two hours with a brief intermission.