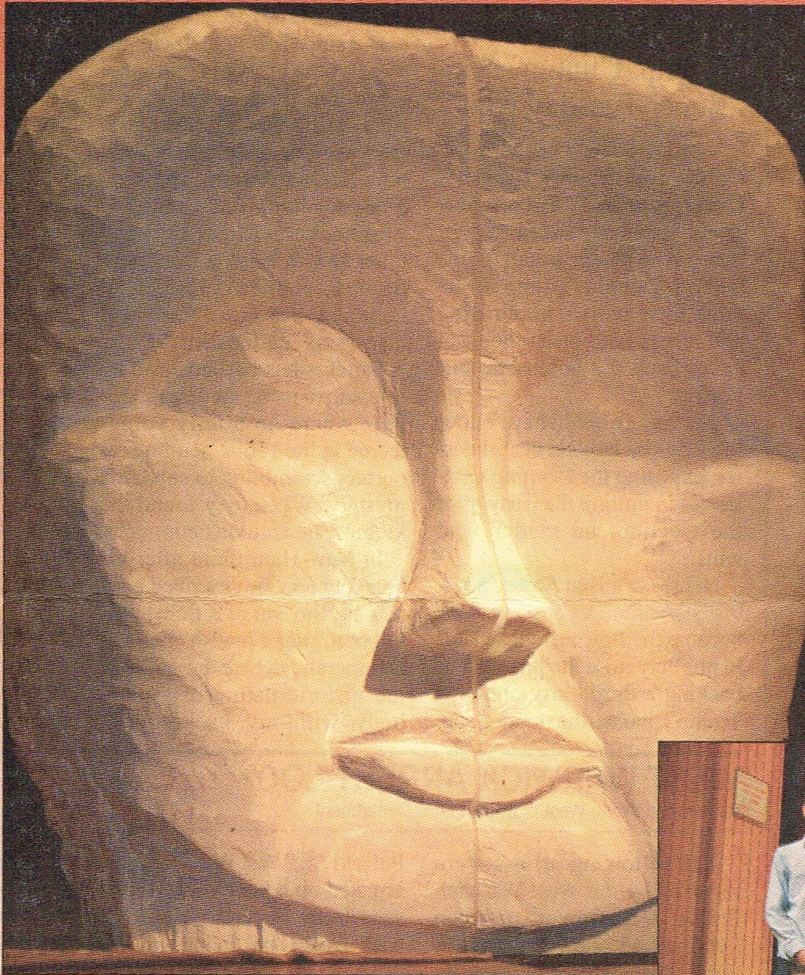


CHS DRAMA DEALS WITH EDGY SUBJECT **PREMIERE PUTS FACE ON PROFILES**

Production deals with bullying, other issues students face



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

ABOVE: A face, sculpted out of heavy styrofoam, serves as the centerpiece on stage throughout the performance of "The Face is the Place" at Coventry High School.

RIGHT: The cast, according to director Mychael Wilkinson, is tackling some of the edgiest subject matter he has ever staged.

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COVENTRY — The drama club at Coventry High School is presenting its spring play "The Face is the Place," later this week.

This will be the American premiere of a new play written by Beth Goobie, a major author of young adult literature in Canada, who personally gave her permission for this production, according to Director and drama teacher Mychael Wilkinson, who explained what the production is about.

The one-act play is contains mature themes and language and is best suited for those ages 12 and older.

The show is a frank and highly dramatic play, which explores the issues of bullying, social profiling and stereotyping within the modern high school community.

"The story deals with a group of 'popular' girls who use threats of violence to get what they want with and how the outcome of these tactics affects the lives of all those involved," he said. "The play has a cast of 12 and is also the Coventry High School entry into the 2016 Rhode Island High School Drama Festival competition and will be performed at Prout High School on March 11 at 1 p.m."

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Premiere at CHS takes on edgy subject matter

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The group of girls who act as the bullies has "hostages" in the bathroom, who are forced to either pay up to be able to leave the bathroom or get their face cut.

"This is one of the more edgy shows I've done," said Wilkinson. "Bullying is such a large issue in this country and students have come to feel that they need to wear a mask and it's about what happens as a result of some speaking up and while the outcome of this play may not be the outcome of what everyone experiences in high school, it will spread more awareness."

Max Cinguegrana, who plays Daryl, said this is the fourth play he's been involved in and heard about the script before rehearsals began in January.

"Drama has always been an interest of mine and this really drew my interest because it shows you don't have to hide your face, you can be who you are and be accepted," he said.

Lissy Shorall has been attending plays and musicals with her parents all her life so she became interested in drama at a very early age. She plays Stella, who she compared to one of the Heather characters in the 1990s hit movie *Heathers*.

"She's the top girl and while everyone hates her, she doesn't care because others want to be at the top," she said. "She has the most influence."

Sabrina Peltier plays "Ritz" and said she enjoys her character because she and her friends are able to make their mark on the situation in a positive way.

This performance will be the first for Hannah Lanoue, who has performed in musicals.

"My character is the 'it' girl and she's hated but Stella took my place when my face got cut," she said.

Senior Lillian Brietzke plays Cassie and said she has seen situations of bullying in the school, although not to the extreme described in the play.

"It holds so much meaning to a wide variety of people," she said.

Guinevere Furtado, who plays "Janie," said what really drew her was hearing about how

long Wilkinson has been trying to get the rights to do the play.

Maxine Colvin is not only involved in drama at the high school, but many sports as well.

She took some time out from sports to take part in the play.

"It totally drew my attention because my character 'Nannette,' is friendly to everyone and that's how I am and in the play, I endure some bullying from Faces too but I stand up to them and try to make the best of a bad situation."

Kyle Dante, who plays "Kevin," said he's been a victim of bullying himself so for him, he sees it as his mission to spread awareness through this play and make the world a better place with less or no bullying.

"I see myself in real life through this character and it doesn't matter what you look like; I want to make people smile," he said.

Jonathan Hart plays "Noah".

"I've always been involved in drama and this being my senior year, I wanted to be a part of this and my character embraces everyone — one thing I've been able to take away from being in the drama club is that it's okay to be myself," he said.

Devlin Cook-Hines, who plays "Marion," has been in five productions and said he's learned valuable things from each one through the different characters he's played.

The five crew members behind the scenes include Linda Caparrelli, the sculptor of the face that serves as the centerpiece of the performance, stage manager Gavin DiFranco, assistant stage manager Delaney Ryan and sound operator CJ Ryan.

Ryan, who is normally on the stage performing, said being the assistant stage manager is very different but she's enjoying things from a different perspective and anything she can do being a part of the drama club, count her in.

DiFranco has plans to attend University of Rhode Island for stage management after graduation.

Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. March 3rd, 4th and 5th at the Coventry High School and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10 each.