

Musical makes perfect return



Anna Lowe
Opinion Editor

The spring musical was spectacular in ways I had never dreamed of.

GHS' production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was definitely amazing. I was extremely impressed by the talent of all the students in the musical. I believe this was the best musical GHS has put on since I have been attending. Some more experienced faculty have also said it was Greenwood's best rendition of Joseph.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat loosely follows the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis in the Bible. Joseph is the favorite son out of eleven brothers, and his father Jacob gives Joseph a technicolor coat. Joseph is loathed by his brothers because of this and because of Joseph's interpretations of his dreams. Joseph tells his brothers that one day they will all bow down to him. Out of jealousy, the brothers attempt to eliminate Joseph, and sell him to Israelites. The rest of the story follows the trials and tribulations Joseph faces. There are little to no spoken lines in the musical, the rest is completely music.

Jeffery Elsey, as Joseph, wowed the audience with his vocals and acting. Joseph was his first lead role at GHS. Every show, Elsey proved that he is worthy of the lead he was given.

The music was amazing, and I was extremely impressed by the live pit. I did not hear one squeak or wrong note throughout the musical. With a score that is all music, this is an impressive feat.

My sister was in the children's choir, so I attended all four shows. I was able to see the actors and actresses flourish from a very good performance on Thursday night to an incredible performance Saturday and Sunday.

The children's choir was well-behaved and talented. Avery Graham and Melody Simms were in charge of taking care of not only their own lines and choreography, but also they also took care of the children's, which is no easy feat.

The brothers were extremely gifted in their roles. Their dedication and talent was definitely shown through their performance. They were expressive in their movements, and each individual



Senior Jeffery Elsey performs as Joseph for the musical. The musical was performed last Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Anna Lowe photo

brother had their own moment to shine. Garrett Phillips blew me away with "One More Angel in Heaven," singing in a southern accent during the entire song. "One More Angel in Heaven" also had complicated choreography. "Those Canaan Days" is going to be stuck in my head for days. The brothers were hilarious.

There were still some technical difficulties throughout the duration of the show, as expected. One scene, the lights went out on the stage too early. Microphones were occasionally turned off,

sometimes for almost an entire song. There was a lot of group choreography, and in scenes where the entire cast was dancing, it was easy to notice when someone was offbeat or had forgotten their moves.

Overall, I believe that Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was one of the best productions GHS has ever produced. I am so impressed by the student body to put on such an amazing show.

Piercings enable accessorizing

Brayton Laster
Reporter

With tattoos and piercings becoming more ubiquitous among students with the New Year among us, could one say that it is more socially acceptable?

Sophomore Makenna Forrest has gotten two ear piercings.

"I believe that ear piercings, tattoos, and other external body modification just for look is definitely becoming a lot more socially acceptable," she said. "They are becoming more and more common, especially at the high school level."

Mr. Andrew Witt, professional piercing artist, wanted his customers to know that piercings do not hurt as bad as people think.

"Everyone comes in here thinking that getting their first piercing will hurt," he said. "However I want everybody to know that before you get your first piercing it does not hurt as bad as you think it will."

Even though it seems painful, getting a piercings only stings a little bit, according to sophomore Imani Cooper.

"It kind of hurt but not that much," she said. "It was like a little pinch and squeeze, and on top of that, it also made my eyes water."

Indiana requires parent permission for those younger than 18 to get piercings. That requires parents to be present and to sign forms.

Cooper wanted to get piercings so she could change her appearance

"I just wanted to change my appearance a little bit," she said. "I just wanted something to help stand out."

Forrest was worried about the pain.

"At first, I thought it would hurt a lot. I mean when you accidentally poke yourself with a pencil or something, it can hurt so I thought that actually piercing through the skin would be even worse," she said. "However, it wasn't that bad and was similar to the feeling of getting a shot at the doctors."

Piercings can vary in price depending on the size and material.

"My piercings for the first time cost me around \$30," Forrest said. "I got mine at Claire's, and that covers the actual piercing of the ears and the earrings too."



Sophomore Makenna Forrest gets her ears pierced. Forrest was shocked by how little the piercing hurt. Sheila Riddle photo

Body piercings other than the ear and bellybutton are normally only done at tattoo parlors.

"We do a large variety of piercings from ear piercings to elbow piercings," Mr. Witt said. "You can get the basics like ear and belly button piercings almost anywhere but for the more advance stuff it is really only safe if you go see a professional."

Junior Brandon Norment really wanted a nose piercing.

"I really wanted a nose piercing so it was definitely exciting to get one," he said. "When it was done, I sat down and looked at the piercing and thought it was really awesome. I could only think about how all the girls would be all over me."

GHS teens serve as company reps

Faith Jackson
News Editor

Companies have started utilizing a different marketing approach— young people.

College and high school students are representing companies from clothing boutiques to weight loss programs. Social media is the main source of advertising for these businesses, and young people seem to be the funnel of success for that. For example, Raelynn's Prom has a GHS representative to help advertise dresses. Senior Madi Hamilton shared her experience being a Raelynn's rep.

"I found the opportunity to do this online. Raelynn's posted about it saying they were looking for people to model their dresses for them, and I was really interested," Hamilton said.

She explained what her role consists of.

"When I go in to work, I either model the dresses and walk around the store and talk to people about the dresses or I would do a job they call 'behind the scenes' where you see how they buy dresses and how everything with that works. I also do photoshoots with them to show off the dresses on their social media," Hamilton said. "My favorite part is being able to see all the dresses they have and talking to people about the dresses. I also really like when girls try on the dresses, and I get to tell them how they look in dresses and help them feel good about the dress they have on."

Other companies, such as It Works supplements and Arbonne, mainly have college students consult for them, but high schoolers' timelines are full with college friends and acquaintances trying to sell products and form teams.

"I feel like it can be annoying with the constant advertisement on Instagram," senior Emily Bonser said.

Senior Anne Lowe agreed about the frequency of advertisements on social media.

"I think it is extremely annoying. I don't want people reaching out to me. If I was interested, I would find them," Lowe said. "But, I think it is a positive thing for the people who are selling it if they are making money and promoting a healthy lifestyle for themselves and other people."

While the constant reminders on Instagram feeds can be redundant, it does offer some positives.

"Something positive about it is how it advertises healthy living which can motivate people to eat healthier or workout more," Bonser said. "I have actually considered buying the products, but they do cost a good amount of money. I would absolutely be interested if I had the money."

Staffer praises "eye opening" novel



Anna Lowe
Opinion Editor

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas is an eye-opener.

The novel focuses on Brianna Jackson, a teen with big dreams. She wants to become a famous rapper, just like her dad, who was murdered by a gang before he could make it big. Bri uses rapping as an outlet for her frustration and anger when faced with challenges at school and at home that no teen should have to face. She uploads her original song, "On the Come Up," onto a website, and it becomes extremely popular, but there are setbacks to her instantaneous fame. Due to her honest lyrics, there is an eruption of controversy. This novel is a perfect contemporary novel for students.

This book definitely opened my eyes further to the inequality that is in this world. On the Come Up is fictional, but anything in this book could easily occur in real life. Angie Thomas' writing is raw and real, showing the hardships of Brianna while also illuminating the good in her life. I think this book is important for students to read; it impresses why society as a whole should strive for racial equality.

Angie Thomas was also the author of The Hate U Give, and the book was recently adapted into film.

I enjoyed the main character Starr Carter in The Hate U Give more than Brianna. I disliked Brianna at first and did not like how she treated her teachers or her mother. However, in every well-written novel, there is character development. Brianna Jackson definitely grew on me, and I admired the passion she had behind her actions. On the Come Up is very good, but I think if I had to choose between the two novels, I would choose The Hate U Give.

If students are uncomfortable with explicit language, then they should not read this novel (or The Hate U Give). On the Come Up uses a lot of language, but I believe that it is necessary. To me, there is a difference between a poorly-written work strewn with expletives and a well-written work using expletives for an intentional purpose. Thomas uses expletives in the context and culture that Brianna is surrounded by. It is not just thrown in for a gasp from conservatives. Thomas' knowledge and research definitely shows in the novel.

I would rate this book 4.5 out of 5 stars; the full 5 is saved for books that make me cry, which is extremely rare. I highly recommend this book to people who enjoy contemporary novels or rap music.

