

Junior Logan Mollo finds a place in theatre production of "The Secret of Cornbread Flats"

Sometimes, things change; the boy with deadlocks never thought he would find himself backstage, having his dress zipped up, while he strapped on his high-heeled shoes, face full of makeup, and a sunhat placed on his head. He never thought he would strut onto a stage and sit on his best friend's lap.

Junior Logan Mollo joined a theatre production for the first time last year for the melodrama in the spring, and decided to return this year in the fall melodrama production of "The Secret of Cornbread Flats."

"I wanted to do something different. Greyson Doremus convinced me to do the melodrama since it's a smaller show just to see what it's all about. I also wanted to do something after school that wasn't a sport," Mollo said.

The melodrama, a new show introduced last school year, is usually seen as a low-stress environment. There's room for lots of people and it's only a month long commitment. It's a perfect opportunity for students like Logan, who just want to try out the art of performance.

"I loved acting way more than I thought I would. It also gave me a lot more confidence that I needed at the time. It is kinda awkward since I'm surrounded by girls all the time but I have Greyson so it's all good."

In the past, Mollo has participated in a variety of activities. This includes colorguard, band, and jazz band. This was his life until people like Ms. Palmquist (the director of the theatre department) started to encourage him to give theatre a try.

"There are considerably less males in theatre than females. We consistently have two to three male students audition for our shows, often getting up to five or six male students for the more well-known shows," director Jessica Palmquist says. "I believe that is because, considering theatre is an art form, the arts are seen as inherently more feminine than activities like sports. However, I try to challenge those stereotypes by showing that theatre builds confidence, leadership, and teamwork skills that benefit everyone, no matter who they are."

There are around 3-4 productions that are put on every year. After the melodrama theatre students put on two other shows, their competing one-act "& Action" and the musical Disney's "The Little Mermaid". Students have the opportunity to do as many shows as they choose, and in a variety of ways.

"Theatre has broadened Logan's horizons. Logan has improved his confidence tremendously, as well as grown his leadership and public speaking abilities. As we are a school program, everything being educational is the core of what we do. It is always a good day for learning in theatre," Palmquist said. "Logan has the potential to continue to excel in his acting roles, use his visual arts talents to design and craft props and set pieces, hone into his time period knowledge to costume characters, and even move into future leadership roles within the extracurricular. Theatre has unending possibilities for everyone, including Logan."

This kind of environment encouraged Mollo to keep auditioning for the shows. He ended up playing the lead male in the melodrama. Through this he strengthened and made friendships.

"I was friends with most people before but now that I've joined theater they've gotten to be much closer friends. It's nice to be able to be as weird as them and not get judged," Mollo said. "I've also gotten to know Pq (Palmquist) and Sesow way better and I think it's helped me in those classes during school cause I want to try harder now that we know each other better."

Many students seem to find a home in the theatre company. It's a great opportunity to meet people in different grades, who are interested in similar things. This creates relationships that can last a lifetime. While a lot of students try theatre and find it is not for them, this was not the case for Logan.

"Performing has always been one of my favorite things to do, so theatre makes me happy. I want to do theatre the rest of high school," Mollo said. "If I get the opportunity, I would like to do it in college as well."

Story by: Madison Kuebler

BEANS

Make the Grass



Theatre students put on the show "The Secret of Cornbread Flats"