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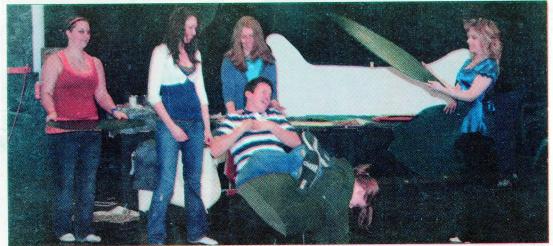
Ken Gousseau/AHN

Cheri Fraser, Alesia Krerger and Tiffany Butt were among 10 North Peace Secondary students practicing notes at the first rehearsal of the school pit band Monday. The band is preparing for the school production of Aladdin, which starts Dec. 2.



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NPSS GIVES ALADDIN A SPIN

Aleisha Hendry/AHN

Heather McLane, Molly Johnson, Danielle Truscott, Travis Cooper, Kayla Mulholland and Alyssa Isberg (kneeling) rehearse a scene from "Aladdin, A British Pantomime" at North Peace Secondary School.



Aleisha Hendry/AHN

Heather McLane, Molly Johnson, Danielle Truscott, Travis Cooper (in chair and plays the role of Abanazar), Kayla Mulholland, Alyssa Isberg (kneeling) rehearse a scene from "Aladdin, a British Pantomime" at North Peace Secondary.

NPSS gives Aladdin a spin

ALEISHA HENDRY ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

As students get in position to do a chorus-line dance and act out certain scenes in the North Peace Secondary School drama room, it becomes very clear that 'Aladdin, A British Pantomime' is definitely not the version of Aladdin that many of us saw in theatres in 1992.

"The whole thing's a little bit twisted. Aladdin is to be played by a girl and the mother of Aladdin is played by a boy," said Emily Nedeau Howatt, the girl that gets to play Aladdin.

Pantomime is a form of ritual theatre that is staged around the winter solstice. The gender switching is a staple of any pantomime perfor-

mance.

Generally, it contains four strands of humor: visual, topical, corny, and rude. In the U.K., it is considered family entertainment.

"The general story is the same, but it's much more interactive. It's going to have a lot of things the audience will recognize like songs, people and places. It's going to be a lot of fun," said Jennifer Baloc, a musical theatre teacher.

The musical theatre class will perform the play, with sets done by the stagecraft class and the School District 60 band acting as the pit band.

'Aladdin, A British Pantomime' will run at the North Peace Cultural Centre on Dec. 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15. Times and ticket information are available at the NPCC box office.

2007