



SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS: North Peace Secondary students sing and dance to the iconic song from Mary Poppins Saturday night at the Cultural Centre. Performance continue this week on Dec. 11, 10 and 12.

DEC 8, 2016 WATT PREPROST PHOTO

Baldonnel wins big at speech contest

William Stodalka
Alaska Highway News

Baldonnel Elementary walked away the big winner in a recent School District 60 speech contest.

On Thursday, more than 30 students from 11 schools across Northeast B.C. came to the North Peace Cultural Centre to do their best to impress a panel of judges with their public speaking skills.

The contest has been going for at least 30 years.

This year's students "took their speeches up a notch," said event organizer Helen Gilbert. "The students really have overall improved the quality of their speeches [from previous years]."

Students were judged based on their opening, delivery and the presentation of their material, among other factors.

The Grade 4 to 6 students chose their own speech topics. Some, like Alwin Holland student Haley Patterson, chose to speak about topics personal to them. Patterson spoke about a concussion she received while figure skating, and her subsequent recovery.

"I had to use my brain as little as possible for six days, but I ended up taking four extra days off because I guess my brain just needed that much time to heal," she said.

See SPEECH on A3



DAVID DYCK PHOTO

The Pirates of Penzance

The pirates will be at the North Peace Cultural Centre Jan. 15-17

David Dyck
Staff Writer

If you're in the mood for some adventure on the high seas, Dr. Kearney Middle School has you covered. They're finishing off rehearsals for the annual school musical, this time treating audiences to their own swashbuckling take on Gilbert and Sullivan's classic *Pirates of Penzance*.

"It is kind of a flagship for Dr. Kearney," said Katie Matthews, the play's director. "Over the last 15 years or so they've been putting on musicals, and it's been whatever teacher that has been here has been doing it, so I've had some pretty big shoes to fill," she said.

Last year was her first year in the role, and she put on a rendition of *High School Musical*. This year she said that besides many of the characters in *Pirates of Penzance* being interchangeable male and female roles, she also wanted to go with something a little more "classic."

"Who doesn't love pirates? Who doesn't love sword fights? It's a traditional love story; it's a traditional Gilbert and Sullivan adaptation. They kind of paved the way for musical theatre and I wanted to bring some of that back into the musical," said

Matthews. "[The students] love musicals, but they wanted *Pitch Perfect* or *Frozen*, and this kind of brings it back to the more classical roots of musical theatre."

She added that there was something of a learning curve for some of the students who were unfamiliar with that kind of musical, and adjusting to the period it is set in was something of a challenge.

"They were all gung ho for pirates and police officers and fighting, but getting them back into the 1800's mindset of how people would act and what would be scandalous and what would be appropriate and how they would act . . . That kind of stuff was pretty hard for them to get their brains around," said Matthews. "But I think that now that we've been practicing it for a solid three and a half months, we're getting there."

The teachers' strike dragged the summer break an extra several weeks, compressing the timeline and leaving only a week for auditions, but Matthews said the play has come together well.

Her young thespians agreed.

"It's actually very stressful with all the homework, we have tests coming up, we have to work really hard for this play," said Elysia Cruz, who is playing the

female lead. "But Miss Matthews gives us time, she helps us with all that. Overall it's okay, it's manageable."

This is Cruz's debut acting performance, and said she is "catching on." Her co-lead, Spencer Prieur, was in last year's *High School Musical*, and is playing Frederic in the upcoming performance. "I think it's a fun piece, there's a lot of adventure and a lot of comedy, and the romance itself is kind of funny, too," he said. "I think I'm going to be ready, I'm feeling confident this year."

Asked if he was doing anything to prepare for the North Peace Cultural Centre stage, he said that he was getting his family to help. "I've been kind of doing pieces in front of my family," he said. "I've been acting it out for them, trying to stay in character and kind of roll with the crowd."

The school band makes up the pit orchestra, with help from the community. Art teachers are putting together the sets and they have costume designers and musicians helping tweak the score.

It's a massive undertaking for volunteers.

The musical runs Jan. 15-17 at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

peacereporter@ahnfsj.ca

LOCAL NEWS



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

CONDUCTOR, CONDUCTOR, WEAVE ME A TUNE: The School District 60 Junior Concert Band performed for a full house at the Fall Band Concert at the North Peace Cultural Centre Nov. 26.

North Peace Secondary School prepares for the arrival of 'Mary Poppins'

Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

FORT ST. JOHN — Flying, magic, music and dance will bring Mary Poppins to life on the stage this Friday at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

North Peace Secondary students have been working since September on their production of the 1964 classic, a musical fantasy that features a firm but kind nanny who possesses unnatural talents.

"Mary Poppins, as compared to previous shows, is a big show," said Emry Mika, director of the play, who teaches musical theatre, drama and acting at the school.

"There's a lot of cast, there's a lot of really big, well known numbers. I picked it because it was a classic... it's got that magic to it that kids really like. It's something really fun for families to do around the Christmas season," she said.

The story features the Banks family, who live in a big house in London on Cherry Lane. Children Jane and Michael are getting out of hand; a new nanny is in order.

After running through an exhaustive list of applicants, the

Banks fear no one is suited for the task. But when Mary Poppins unexpectedly arrives on their doorstep, she is 'practically perfect in every way.' Her mysterious manner balances a strict disposition with kindness.

Achieving that balance has been challenging for actress Annie Peachey, who grew up on the Disney movie and who's read the book. Mary Poppins' character differs greatly between them.

"I always thought she was a little, honestly, too sweet for me, she was quite flighty in the Disney musical at least, and in the book she's quite mean, which is a very contrast between the two characters," Peachey said.

"Bringing to life this character has been difficult because it's such an iconic role and I don't want to mess it up, and also because it's different from the musical and because it's different from the book, I don't really have anywhere to draw on except the script, so it's building (her character) up on my own, and it's been challenging, but it's really fun as well."

Another hurdle the Grade 11 student has had to overcome is her fear of heights.

With the help of a Las Vegas

company called Flying by Foy, the cast is able to rise above London's rooftops and bring a flying spectacle to the Cultural Centre.

"I'm personally really scared of heights, so whenever I was just about to fly I was really nervous," Peachey told the Alaska Highway News.

The sturdy harness and a little practice have helped her overcome that fear.

"I think it's going to look amazing on stage," she said.

Bert, a long time friend of Mary Poppins', is a jack-of-all trades. Actor Jacob Chmelyk has had fun trying to nail the character down. This is his first musical, and one challenge has been dancing.

"I've never really done any kind of dancing before now, so that's kind of been a bit difficult, just remembering everything," he said, in an interview.

Unlike for Peachey, the flying scenes are Chmelyk's favourites.

Opening night of Mary Poppins is Friday, Dec. 4. The musical will take the stage again Sat., Dec. 5, and from Dec. 10-12. Adult admission is \$20, student admission is \$15, and senior and child admission is \$11.

peacereporter@ahnfsj.ca

SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS!

DEC 4, 2015



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

Annie Peachey and Jacob Chmelyk star in the North Peace Secondary School production of Mary Poppins.

NORTH PEACE SECONDARY SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE PRESENTS

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH's

MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

©Disney/CML

A MUSICAL BASED ON THE STORIES OF P.L. TRAVERS
AND THE WALT DISNEY FILM

DIRECTED BY EMRY MIKA
MUSICALLY DIRECTED BY DAVID PRICE

DECEMBER 4, 5, 10, 11, AND 12, 7:00 PM
NORTH PEACE CULTURAL CENTRE

ORIGINAL MUSIC AND LYRICS BY RICHARD M. SHERMAN AND ROBERT B. SHERMAN
BOOK BY JULIAN FELLOWES
NEW SONGS AND ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY GEORGE STILES AND ANTHONY DREWE
CO-CREATED BY CAMERON MACKINTOSH

FLYING BY FOY

ABOUT THE PLAY

Mary Poppins is the story of the Banks family who live in a big house in London on Cherry Tree Lane. Things are not going well for the family. The children, Jane and Michael, are out of control, and are in need of a new nanny. Jane and Michael have their own ideas about what sort of caretaker they should have, while their parents — and in particular Mr. Banks — are insistent on someone strict for the job. When a mysterious young woman named Mary Poppins appears at their doorstep, the family finds that she's the answer to their prayers, but in the most peculiar way. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones she has a profound effect upon. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "anything can happen if you let it."

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It seemed like a few short weeks ago that this talented group of actors, singers, and dancers started practicing for this production of *Mary Poppins*. But it has been thirteen weeks since the start of school and this group has been hard at work getting ready for this day! Many hours of hard work, dedication and sweat have resulted in another outstanding production! North Peace has an amazing history of superb performances from the Music Theatre class. Tonight will be no different! Congratulations to Ms. Mika and Mr. Price! Great productions start with great teachers! To the cast and crew - break a leg! To the audience - sit back and enjoy the show!

Randy Pauls

Original London and Broadway Production Credits

Produced by Cameron Mackintosh and Thomeas Schumacher

Co-Choreographer
Stephen Meat

Lighting Design
Howard Harrison

Scenic and Costume Design
Bob Crowley

Co-Direction and Choreography
Matthew Bourne

Directed by
Richard Eyre



EMRY MIKA

Director

Hello, and welcome to ***Mary Poppins: The Musical!*** What a magical adventure we have had! This year marks my second year teaching the musical theatre program at North Peace Secondary School and I am very blessed to continue to work with such a great group of students. They are enthusiastic, energetic and talented and we have had a lot of fun working together to create the production you will see tonight! We have spend countless hours singing, playing, building, painting, acting and dancing, all in preparation for this moment.

So please sit back, relax, and enjoy the magic of ***Mary Poppins: The Musical!***



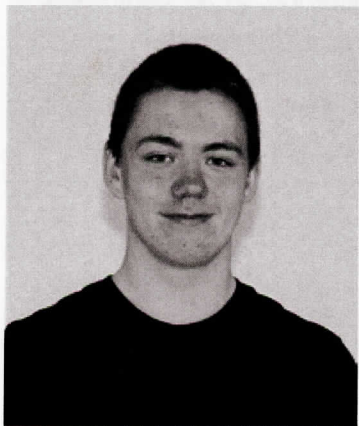
DAVID PRICE

Music Director

Mr. Price has been involved with many productions, with ***Mary Poppins*** being his seventh at NPSS. He looks forward to presenting this show to you, and blocking the view of most of the people sitting in the middle of the front two rows!

A special "thank you" goes to the entire Cast and Crew and Pit Band of ***Mary Poppins***, as especially to Emry Mika who has been such a pleasure to work with. Thank you's also go to Randy Pauls and the Administration Team of North Peace Secondary School for their great support.

David finally wishes to thank his wife and family for all of their wonderful support. He hopes you have a wonderful evening here at the show!



TYLER UNRUH

Stage Manager

Tyler would like to start off by saying a genuine, heartfelt thank you for attending the High School's ***Mary Poppins*** this year. This is his fifth play, third musical, and second time stage managing. He worked behind the scenes in ***Shrek*** last year, as well as stage managing and acting in the High School's theatre class' ***Frankenstein*** last semester.

He hopes that you enjoy the work that he and his friends have put into this show and wishes you a great night!

CAST LIST

MARY POPPINS	Annie Peachey	BERT	Jacob Chmelyk
GEORGE BANKS	Alex Collins	WINIFRED BANKS	Anna Lehyk
JANE BANKS	Amy Bazin	MICHAEL BANKS	Tristan Ranger
MRS. BRILL	Samantha Dunne	ROBERTSON AY	Tyler Pauls
MISS LARK	Julia Fuhriman	ADMIRAL BOOM	Garett Higginbottom
POLICEMAN	Tyler Robertson	PARK KEEPER	Jaedon Braun
NELEUS	Elan Miller-Jeannotte		
MISS SMYTHE	Camryn Bernardin	CHAIRMAN	Brenden Wan
VON HUSSLER	Sam Lundin	NORTHBROOK	Aidan Scott
BIRD WOMAN	Rachel Nelson	MRS. CORRY	Elan Miller-Jeannotte
ANNIE	Courtney Bueckert	FANNIE	Morgan Temple
VALENTINE	Heather McAleney		
MISS ANDREW	Morgan Mora	KATIE NANNA	Camryn Bernardin
MESSENGER	Tyler Robertson	POSEIDON	Garett Higginbottom

STATUES

Courtney Bueckert Morgan Mora Cynthia Vance Sam Lundin Heather McAleney

PARK STROLLERS

Cassidy Eksyma Vivian Iloka Sheylenn Laliberte Alaura Lybbert Ana Jamela Maja
Annamarie Sampson Aidan Scott Tyler Robertson Julia Fuhriman Brenden Wan

BANK CLERKS / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Camryn Bernardin Brandon Braun Justine Dhaliwal Amanda Dunn Garret Higginbottom
Shawn Johnston Allisann Lucas Sarah McCaig Lauriann Melney Danae Rondeau Alicia Rugner
Faith Simon Jacey Van Sickle Emma Stanway Danna Testawitch
Bailey West Samantha Wigglesworth Kira Wetzel

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Camryn Bernardin Jaedon Braun Courtney Bueckert Julia Fuhriman Vivian Iloka Sheylenn Laliberte
Alaura Lybbert Ana Jamela Maja Heather McAleney Elan Miller-Jeannotte Morgan Mora
Annamarie Sampson Aidan Scott Tyler Robertson Cynthia Vance Brendan Wan

CUSTOMERS

Jaedon Braun Cassidy Eksyma Vivian Iloka Sheylenn Laliberte Alaura Lybbert
Heather McAleney Ana Jamela Maja Morgan Mora Tyler Robertson
Annamarie Sampson Aidan Scott Cynthia Vance Brenden Wan

TOYS

Courtney Bueckert Samantha Dunne Cassidy Eksyma Julia Fuhriman Vivian Iloka
Sheylenn Laliberte Alaura Lybbert Ana Jamela Maja Elan Miller-Jeannotte
Morgan Mora Morgan Temple Cynthia Vance

KITE FLYERS

Camryn Bernardin Brandon Braun Justine Dhaliwal Amanda Dunn Keelyn Fox Garrett Higginbottom
Shawn Johnston Allisann Lucas Sam Lundin Lauriann Melney Rachel Nelson Danae Rondeau
Alicia Rugner Faith Simon Emma Stanway Danna Testawitch Jacey Van Sickle
Bailey West Kira Wetzel Samantha Wigglesworth



STAGECRAFT

Stage Manager: Tyler Unruh

Assistant Stage Manager: Hannah Graham

Ashley Price, Caleb Blanchette, Chelsie Sorenson,

Elizabeth King, Emmanuel Iloka,

Hayden Edwards, Matthew Staverman, Jobyna Chambers,

Jordan Tibbetts, Julia Wissink, Skylin Martin



PIT BAND

Flute: Annilee Anderson, Ashley Braun,

Cole Steiner, Heidi Simkins

Oboe: Kaley Guyan, Madeleine Odowichuk

Clarinet: Janaya Doetzel

Bass Clarinet: Tanner Willier

Tenor Saxophone: Parker Neumeier

Baritone Saxophone: Jordan McAdie

Trumpet: Alex Gaal, Lindsay Maynard

French Horn: Ashley Karch

Percussion: Jordan Threinen, Kalyn Johnston

Bass Guitar: Dakota Browett

Piano: Jennifer Price

Page Turner: Lauren Ollenberger

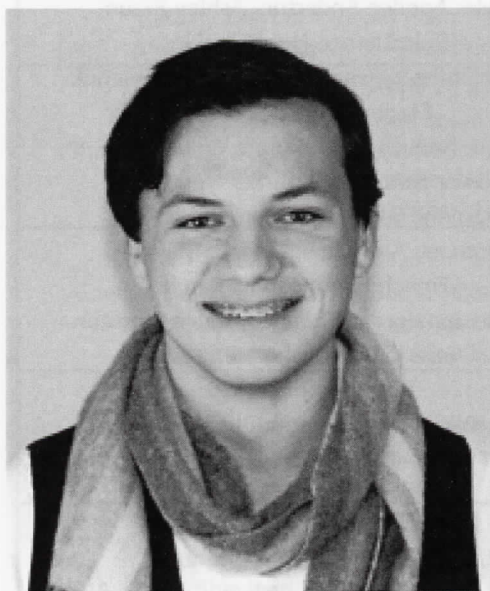




ANNIE PEACHEY

MARY POPPINS

This is Annie Peachey's second play with North Peace Secondary School. You may recognize her from North Peace Secondary's *Shrek the Musical* or, most recently, Stage North's *Pride and Prejudice*. Though Annie is no stranger to musicals, this one really holds a special place in her heart. Having the opportunity to bring to life as beloved and iconic a character as P.L. Travers' Mary Poppins has been both a pleasure and a challenge. She would like to say thank you to her castmates for becoming like a family to her and supporting her even at her worst and most annoying. She would also like to thank her family for putting up with her incessant singing and dancing (both during this play and throughout the majority of her life), her fantastic directors Mrs. Mika and Mr. Price for giving her an A+++ on all of her assignments (*nudge*nudge*), her English teacher Mr Harper for still accepting all of her overdue work, her stage manager Tyler for being a cool dude and keeping all of the cast in line, and Taylor Swift for just generally being a really talented and cool person (she assumes). And lastly she would like to thank you, the audience, for taking your time to read the entirety of this lengthy bio, and for coming to take part in this wonderful production! She hopes you enjoy watching it as much as she enjoyed performing it!



JACOB CHMELYK

BERT

Jacob [jey-kub]

-Noun:

1. A strangely attractive (yet slightly annoying) individual, who mostly spends his time doing things that involve music and/or acting. "He's just being such a Jacob."

- Verb:

1. To make one's director want to scream and strangle the life out of your body, generally due to acts of sass or extreme sarcasm. Jacob has been in few large productions, but you may recognise him as Percy Shelley or Felix Delacey in the 2014-2015 NPSS Drama Class' production *Frankenstein*. Before taking to the stage, he played bass guitar in the pit band for last year's show *Shrek: the Musical*. This will be his first musical, and his first main role in any production. Jacob would like to thank his scruffy nerd of a friend Blake Simpson, for getting him into this game in the first place. He'd also like to thank his family for putting up with constant dancing, singing, and nonstop cockney accents at home since he was cast. Finally, he would like to thank his fantastic teacher/director Emry Mika, for not murdering him despite his antics, and for allowing him this opportunity. Jacob hopes that you have as much fun watching the show as he did performing in it! It's a jolly-super-step-in-time!



ALEX COLLINS

GEORGE BANKS

Alex is extremely proud to be playing Mr. Banks in this year's NPSS production of *Mary Poppins*. This is Alex's fourth production and his first major role. You may recognize him from last year's production *Shrek* where he played the cross dressing wolf. He'd like to thank his parents Linda and Aaron, and his talented teacher/director/mentor Mrs. Mika for all their love and support and just being their wonderful selves. He hopes you all enjoy his boatloads of charisma....oh and the show.



ANNA LECKY

WINIFRED

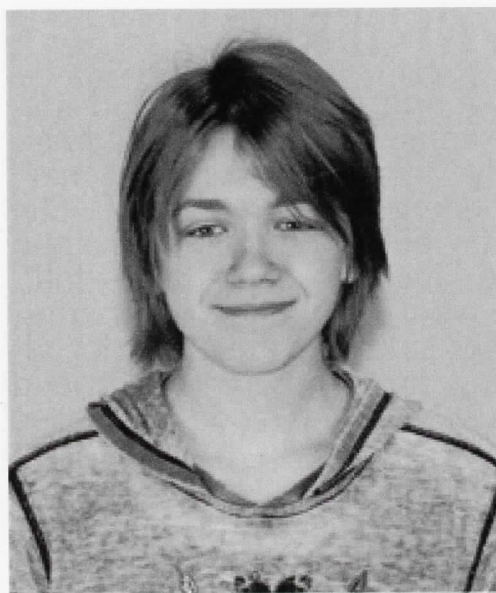
This is Anna's fourth play and second musical. She is extremely excited about *Mary Poppins* mostly because all of the amazing songs and energetic choreography. She warns you to stay out of the splash zone and buy some free kittens to support the lollipop guild. She would like to thank her arms, for being by her side, and her legs, for always supporting her. And her best friend ever Alex for just being the raddest guy ever.



AMY BAZIN

JANE BANKS

This is Amy's second production with North Peace Secondary School. You may recognize her from her rather wooden performance as Pinocchio in last year's production of ***Shrek the Musical***. On the side, Amy is in her 5th year of competitive dance at Studio 2 Stage. She wants to thank her family for driving her everywhere, her friends for being wonderful, and Gatorade for fueling her performance. She would also like to thank Mrs. Mika, Mr. Price, Mr. Harper, John Kirkpatrick, and the entire cast and crew for making the rehearsal process hilarious and inspiring. She's very proud of the work that everyone has put in, and hopes you enjoy the show!



TRISTAN RANGER

MICHAEL BANKS

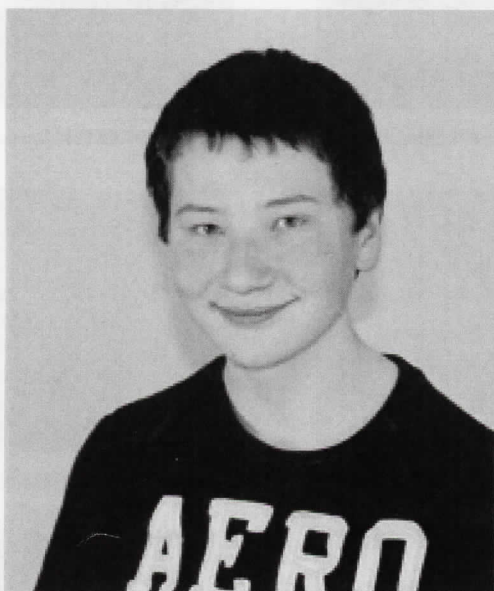
Tristan Ranger is very ecstatic to be playing a lead role in ***Mary Poppins***. Tristan is playing the role of Michael Banks, a part that for Tristan has been incredibly fun, and a huge learning experience. You may recognize Tristan as Peter Pan from ***Shrek the Musical***, or as Henry Clerval from ***Frankenstein***. It is Tristan's dream to be an actor, so for Tristan this musical is a big deal. Tristan wishes to thank everyone for coming to see Mary Poppins and hopes you all enjoy the show.



SAMANTHA DUNNE

MRS. BRILL

Samantha Dunne is extremely excited to exhibit her personality, that is very well executed in her role in the musical ***Mary Poppins***. You might have seen Samantha before in the numerous other shows she's been in, including ***Hallways*** and ***The Aristocats***. Samantha has a truly natural theatrical bone inside of her. Samantha is a grade 11 student attending North Peace Secondary School. Over the years, Samantha has been a part of nine musicals, and four plays. Samantha is very excited to share this story, and hopes you enjoy!



TYLER PAULS

ROBERTSON AY

This is Tyler's eighth musical production. You might remember him as the Famous Pirate King in Dr. Kearney's play ***Pirates of Penzance*** last year, or perhaps Dr. Kearney's play 2 years ago, ***High School Musical***, where he played Ryan Evans the brother of Sharpay. Tyler hopes you are having a good day and that you enjoy the show.



AIDAN SCOTT



ALAURA LYBBERT



ALICIA RUGNER



ALLISANN LUCAS



AMANDA DUNN



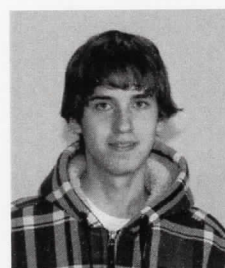
ANA JAMELA MAJA



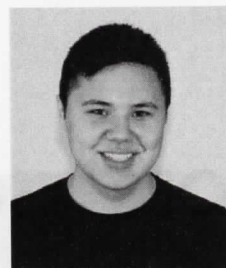
ANNAMARIE SAMPSON



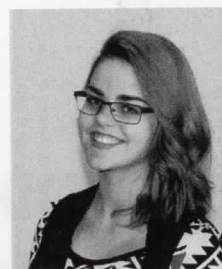
BAILEY WEST



BRANDON BRAUN



BRENDEN WAN



CAMRYN BERNARDIN



CASSIDY EKSYMA



COURTNEY BUECKERT



CYNTHIA VANCE



DANAE RONDEAU



DANNA TESTAWITCH



EMMA STANWAY



FAITH SIMON



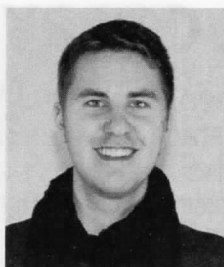
GARETT HIGGINBOTTOM



HEATHER MCALENEY



JACEY VAN SICKLE



JAEDON BRAUN



JULIA FUHRMAN



JUSTINE DHALIWAL



KEELYN FOX



KIRA WETZEL



LAURIANN MELNEY



MORGAN TEMPLE



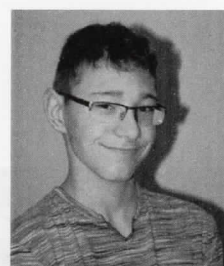
SAMANTHA WIGGLESWORTH



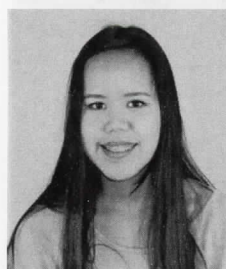
SAMUEL LUNDIN



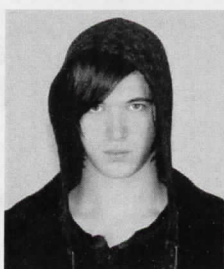
SARAH MCCAIG



SHAWN JOHNSON



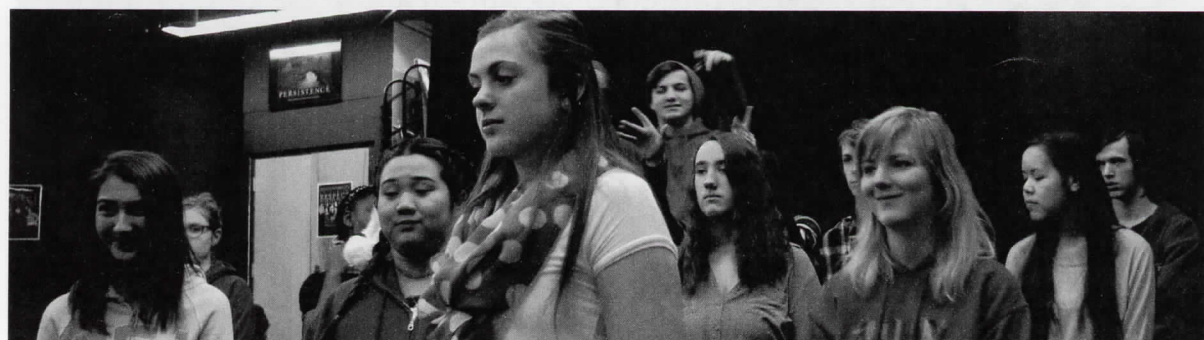
SHEYLYNN LALIBERTE



TYLER ROBERTSON



VIVIAN ILOKA





ELAN MILLER-JEANNOTTE

MRS. CORRY / NELEUS

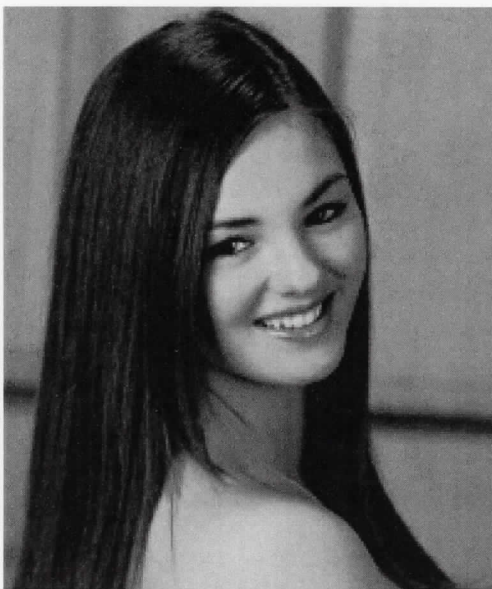
Elan has been on the stage since she was three years old, starting with dance. Since the age of seven she has been apart of competitive dance, performing various styles in the ballet, stage and contemporary disciplines. Elan has appeared in many school plays throughout elementary and middle school including *Anne of Green Gables*, *Under the Influence*, *School for Nerds* and *Step Up to the Plate*. Elan is very excited to be a part of this production of *Mary Poppins*, as it is her first musical. She hopes you enjoy it and are taken on a "Jolly Holiday".



RACHEL NELSON

BIRD WOMAN

Rachel Nelson was born and raised in the city of Fort St. John BC, and is currently in her senior year of high school. You may recognize her as the Dragon from last year's *Shrek the Musical*, a show which she greatly enjoyed taking part in. Though she is still relatively new to Musical Theatre, Rachel enjoys every aspect of work that goes into creating and showcasing a production, and is very excited to be a part of this year's *Mary Poppins* cast as the Bird Woman. Rachel hopes to continue pursuing the subject of theatre in any way possible after the conclusion of her secondary schooling, after which she plans to study English and Music in accordance to her passion for both singing and language. She constantly hopes to improve her skills and capabilities, recognizing that the art of self-expression is an ever-changing adventure that never ceases to be both a fulfilling and amazing aspect of her life.

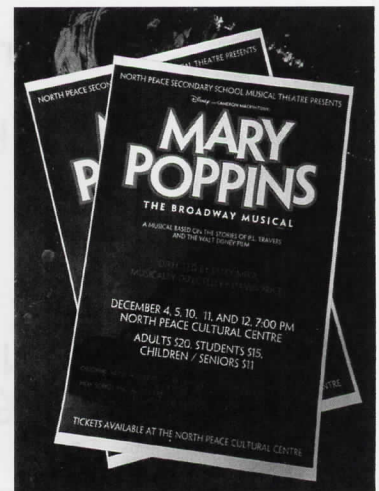


MORGAN MORA

MISS ANDREW

Morgan Mora has been a competitive dancer for seven years and has been doing musicals for for years. This will be Morgan's biggest role she has ever played and is very excited to do so. She loves performing arts and hopes the audience will enjoy all of the great singing, acting and dancing just as much as she does.





IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO PRODUCE A GREAT SHOW!
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THESE GREAT PEOPLE
AND COMPANIES HELPING US ALONG OUR WAY!

Jessica Graham and the Woodwork Class
Jennifer Andrews
Leanne Dyck and the Textiles Class
NPSS Secretarial Staff
Jennifer Mallette, Vanessa Whalen, & Deborah McDowell
Heather Truscott & the Sew it Yourself Shop
Imagine That! The Logo Shop
Stage North
Studio 2 Stage
Northern Dance Theatre Society
The Move Dance Studio
Aaron Harper
Randy Pauls
Jason Gill
Carleen Andrews

Special thanks to Home Hardware
for providing all the wood in our set.

**TO ALL FRIENDS, PARENTS AND FAMILY
FOR THEIR HELP AND CONTRIBUTIONS,
TO THE BUSINESSES WHO MADE
DONATIONS TO OUR PRODUCTION,
TO ANYONE ELSE WE'VE MISSED,
THANK YOU!**

Flying Provided by



www.flybyfoy.com

Play Synopsis: <http://www.broadway.com/shows/mary-poppins/story/>

ENJOY THE SHOW!



**NPSS MUSICAL THEATRE
2015**