

The
PERFORMER

February 2010

Informing The French Woods Community

Happy Valentines Day!



French Woods
Festival of the Performing Arts

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The Performer is Your Newsletter!

The Performer is only as good as the contributions we receive from the French Woods community. Let us know what is going on in your life. Your camp friends love to hear what you are doing. Do you have a performance or concert coming up? Have you seen or spoken to French Woods friends? How did your sports team do this season? We also welcome your photos and any creative writing you may want to see in print. It's your big chance! Write us at P.O. Box 770100,

Coral Springs, FL 33077-0100 or give us a call at 1-800-634-1703.

CORRE MAIL ADDRESS IS admin@frenchwoods.com.

We all love hearing from you!

All the news that's fit to print.

See yourself in the French Woods Performer.

1-800-634-1703 in FL 954-346-7455

French Woods Festival
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Isaac's Corner

There are 114 days left until session 1 rolls around and 134 days to wait for the beginning of session 2. We can't wait to begin our 41st summer at French Woods. As always, we have a lot of surprises in store for you.

I will be in Philly toward the end of February or the beginning of March for an open house at the Silow's, who have graciously offered to be our host. I will mail a letter out setting the exact date, time, and place. If you are interested in seeing me, please call me. I am also planning an open house in Newton, MA., near the Boston area. This will also happen in late February or early March.

In late March or Early April we will have our final Florida open house. We again will send out information in the next week or two.

My basketball season is over, we have had an interesting year. I have great kids but not great basketball players. They have come a long way. After losing big early in the season, we got it together to be very competitive and actually won 7 out of our last 9 games! My daughter Jen continues to enjoy her new job as an Assistant Principal at my alma mater, Abraham Lincoln HS in Brooklyn. She is also the director of the Arts and Social Sciences Academy at the school. I am very proud of her accomplishments. My son, Josh, is hard at work at the Lahey Clinic outside of Boston as an Orthopedic partner. Hopefully, the first of his three children, Teddy, who will be turning 8 in June, will become a third generation French Woodite this summer. Lillie (5) and Danny (4) will soon follow.

Please read some valuable information compiled with the help of the ACA that I have included below.



The Benefits Of Camp For The Family

Welcome to a new chapter in the life of your family! I say this because when a child goes off to camp for the first time, everyone in the family grows from the experience, not just your courageous camper!

You already know that camp presents a tremendous opportunity for your child to widen horizons, make new and lasting friends, and discover new strengths. After all, you wouldn't be considering camp if you didn't think it would add substantially to your child's growth and development. And although French Woods can help your child learn a better backhand in tennis, acquire a stronger stroke in swimming, or improve a skill in just about any physical endeavor as well as the performing and visual arts, the true payoff of camp will be apparent when your child comes home more self-reliant, self-sufficient, and self-confident. What a gift to give to your child!

So even though you know about all the social and emotional benefits that a quality camp experience can bestow on your child, don't be surprised if as a parent you have mixed feelings about this blessing. Most parents do! After all, nothing takes more trust than giving your child over to the care of other adults. Finding this trust, letting your child see that trust and letting your child go off on his or her own adventure with your blessing takes courage! It is also why I say you, as a parent, will grow from the experience of camp, too!

So take comfort in knowing your child is about to enter a safe place that will help him or her widen horizons, develop greater coping skills, and become more resilient—just as it will you!

Top Five Camp Preparation Tips

- 1. Don't make a "pick-up deal."** Promising "If you feel homesick, I'll come and get you" undermines children's confidence and dramatically intensifies homesickness. Instead, normalize their anxiety, and talk positively about camp.
- 2. Double-check the camp's packing list.** Many seasons of experience have helped your child's camp directors refine the packing list to include all the essentials. So, if it says "stick bug repellent," don't buy spray. If it says "no electronics," then leave the video games at home.
- 3. Spend practice time away from home.** Nothing builds confidence and teaches a child how to cope with time away from home better than...(you guessed it)...time away from home. That weekend at your folks' will do wonders for their adjustment.
- 4. Label everything.** It's easy to lose things at camp, but if you want it back, it's got to have your name on it. Label everything from your t-shirts to your tennis racket to your toothbrush. And leave really expensive gear at home.
- 5. Double-check the opening and closing dates and times.** Start camp off on a smooth note by arriving on time and on the right day. Use a wall calendar in the months prior to opening day to make an exciting count-down to the big day.

Camper & Staff News

Diana Price performed her own choreography in a series of student-directed scenes, and was cast in her high school production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Emma Safon was chosen to perform in the Georgia Statewide Sixth Grade Honors Chorus

Lili Safon, was cast as Lucille in *Dearly Departed* this Fall. She is currently rehearsing the role of Juror #12 in a production of *Twelve Angry Jurors*.

Hali Garber will be performing with her high school's all female acapella group, the Adelettes, during the *Disney Magic Music Days Festival* in Orlando, March 6-8.

Sam Dana was recently cast as Benjamin Ginsburg in an upcoming production of *Prairie Lights*. **Eric Dana** will be performing as one of three tuba players in the Seminole All-County Honors Orchestra. Both Sam and Eric are also preparing for solo/ensemble competitions (Sam on bassoon, Eric on tuba).

Rachel Weisbart will be appearing as *The Cat in the Hat* in an upcoming middle school production of *Suessical*. She will also be playing flute in the Hudson River Towns Honor Band and singing in the Westchester All-County Chorus.

Tara Folio has been cast as Rebel in *Columbinus*, a riveting drama about the teens and community touched by the Columbine shooting tragedy. The show will be mounted at Act 3 Productions, a new theater opened in Sandy Springs, GA by French Woods parent **Patti Mactas**. **Tara** will also be playing a show-girl in *Crazy for You* in her high school production. **Tara** also played the part of Mary Phagan in the recent production of *Parade* in Marietta, GA.

Taylor Feingold has just completed a run as Elvira in *Blithe Spirit* at her high school, and is playing Mimi in *RENT*.

Matthew Wechsler wrote two songs that Deborah Gibson published. He wrote the songs, she tweaked the lyrics and put them to music.

Steven Colburn was cast as Sowerberry in *Oliver!* **Griffin Kozlow** is also in that production.

Nick O'Brien has been selected to play for both the LISFA and SCMEA county orchestras, plus the Junior HS Chamber Orchestra, and the pit orchestra for the school's upcoming spring production of *The Sound Of Music*.

Andy O'Brien has been chosen to participate in the 6th Grade All-District Orchestra, as well as the All-District Chorus.

Scott Davis is the bass in *Songs for a New World* and was cast in his high school production of the *Art of Sondheim*, a newly written revue of Sondheim's works. **Scott** plays the role of Bobby from *Company* and Gutaeiu from *Assassins* as well as the ensemble. **Scott** has also been cast in the *Belles of Amherst* as numerous roles. Earlier this year, **Scott** played the role of Ross in *Macbeth*.

Kasie Patlove, **Jessi Silverman** and **Seth Silverman** have just been cast in the Wolf Performing Arts Centers production of *A Year With Frog and Toad*. **Kasie** will be playing Toad, **Jessi** will be playing Snail and **Seth** will be playing a lizard.

Ally Rosenblum is performing in *Sweet Charity* with Broadway Bound in Coral Springs. She also Received "Superior" in Solo Musical Theater for Thesbians.

Joshua Goldman performed in *13* during the last weekend in January in the Sabrina Encore Production in Newtown, CT.

Becca Suskauer performed the National Anthem at Landshark Stadium in Miami at a Florida Marlins/Washington Nationals major league baseball game and was a featured performer in the *From Benjamin to Broadway* variety show at the Eissey Theater in Palm Beach Gardens, as Dainty June from *Gypsy*, Anna from *The King and I* and the title role in *Annie*.

Matt Grossman performed at the Super Bowl XLIV pregame show with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Band from Parkland, Florida.

Second Session Shows 2010

Aladdin

Aladdin gets mixed up in a nefarious plot by Jafar the adviser to the sultan. A person of pure spirit is the only one who can grab a mystical lamp which is the heart of the evil adviser's plan. Aladdin discovers the secret of the lamp and the comic hilarity that lies inside. Aladdin gets three wishes from the Genie in the bottle and Al's life will never be the same. Will Aladdin fulfill his deepest desires or will he rescue the princess and take a magic carpet ride into the sunset? Seven to eleven year olds will find out this summer!

Gepetto & Son

Based on the original Disney television musical, Disney's Geppetto and Son features music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by David Stern, that's sure to be fun for seven to eleven year olds

HMS Pinafore

H.M.S. Pinafore; or, The Lass that Loved a Sailor is a comic opera in two acts, imbued with mirth and silliness. with music by Arthur Sullivan and a libretto by W. S. Gilbert. This show will be performed by seven to eleven year olds.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king of Halloween Town, is bored with doing the same thing every year for Halloween. One day he stumbles into Christmas Town and is so taken with the idea of Christmas that he tries to get the resident bats, ghouls, and goblins of Halloween town to help him put on Christmas instead of Halloween -- but alas, they can't get it quite right. This show will be performed by 7-11 year olds.

The Wiz

Dorothy's adventures in the Land of Oz have been set to music in a dazzling, lively mixture of rock, gospel and soul. All of your favorite characters come to life in this updated setting of "The Wizard of Oz" for seven to eleven year olds

Cats

A musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber based on Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats and

other poems by T. S. Eliot. Cats is one of the most popular musicals of all time having been performed around the world in numerous productions. In this one, eleven to fourteen year olds will star as the Jellicle Cats!

Seussical

In this family-friendly show about the power of imagination and belief in yourself, the Cat in the Hat acts as the emcee to steer us through the world of Dr. Seuss and his well-loved characters. We are first introduced to Horton the Elephant, who hears and rescues the citizens of Who, the "tiniest planet in the sky" by placing them gently on a clover. His fellow Jungle of Nool residents, including the Sour Kangaroos and Wickersham Brothers, think he is crazy for talking to a speck of dust. This ensemble cast will be made up of eleven to fourteen year olds.

Oklahoma!

Winner of a special Pulitzer prize, Oklahoma! changed the face of stage musicals by telling an emotional story through music, lyrics and dance as never before. Set in the Indian territory of the American West at the turn of the century - against a background of conflict between farmers and cattlemen - it is the story of Laurey and two rivals for her affections. Famously, the show opens with 'Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'' and contains a cornucopia of wonderful songs such as 'The Surry with The Fringe on Top', 'People Will Say We're in Love', 'Many a New Day', 'I Can't Say No', and the final rousing chorus of 'Oklahoma!' - it is a musical treat for eleven to fourteen year olds.

She Loves Me

Georg and Amalia are two feuding clerks in a European parfumerie during the 1930s who secretly find solace in their anonymous romantic pen pals, little knowing their respective correspondents are none other than each other. Funny, intelligent, honest and sentimental, "She Loves Me" is a warm romantic comedy with an endearing innocence and a touch of old world elegance and nostalgia, yet as universal and relevant as ever in this age of internet romances. This show showcases a small but strong

ensemble cast playing a range of vivid, memorable characters of all ages for ages eleven to fourteen.

Good News

This collegiate musical from the twenties with its football heroes, wide eyed coeds and stern professors feature a wide range of show stopping songs. Wonderfully American it is as exciting and liberating as fourth of July fireworks for ages eleven to fourteen.

Blood Brothers

A haunting musical tragedy of our times. The tale of two twins parted at birth and how their lives intertwined as they grow up. This musical fulfills the prophecy that twins separated at birth will die on the day they discover their heritage. for ages eleven to seventeen.

West Side Story

Transplanting the classic tale of "Romeo and Juliet" to New York City in the 1950s, two feuding families are replaced by brawling street gangs. The Montagues become the Anglo Jets, led by Riff, and the Capulets become the Puerto Rican Sharks, led by Bernardo. At a dance, Tony, former leader of the Jets and Riff's best friend, and Maria, Bernardo's little sister, see each other across the room and it's love at first sight. With opposition from both sides, they meet secretly and their love grows deeper. However, the gangs are plotting one last rumble, a fight that will finally end the battle for control of the streets. Will Tony and Maria's love carry through a battle that threatens to destroy the people they love around them? Eleven to seventeen year olds will find out.

Sweet Charity

Book by Neil Simon, Based on the film Nights Of Cabiria, Lyrics by Dorothy Fields, Music by Cy Coleman Produced by Robert Fryer, Lawrence Carr, Sylvia Harris & Joseph Harris, Directed by Bob Fosse, Choreography by Bob Fosse Taxi dancer Charity continues to have Faith in the human race despite apparently endless disappointments at its hands, and Hope that she will finally meet the nice

young man to romance her away from her sleazy life. Maybe, just maybe, handsome Oscar will be the one to do it. will be performed by eleven to seventeen year olds.

Mikado

The most famous of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and possibly the most frequently played piece of musical theatre in history. The son of the Mikado, to avoid marriage with an elderly lady of his father's court, flees and hides in Titipu. He falls in love with a beautiful schoolgirl who is the ward of Koko, Lord High Executioner. Meanwhile, the Mikado demands that an execution take place in Titipu. Koko consents to the marriage of his ward with the disguised prince on condition that he volunteer to be beheaded at the end of the month. But Koko is too tender-hearted to carry out the execution. Instead, he and two conspirators sign an affidavit stating that the prince has been executed. The Mikado, shown the affidavit, condemns the three to a death by "boiling oil or melted lead." The prince, however, appears on the scene alive and well with his new bride, and all ends happily for ages eleven to seventeen.

Boeing Boeing*

This latest edition of a play named for an aircraft soars right out of its time zone and into some unpoluted stratosphere of classic physical comedy for ages eleven to seventeen.

Independence

a play full of thought-provoking, delightful down home humor that comes out of crises for ages eleven to seventeen.

Honour

A young intruder's destruction of a long marriage is at the heart of Joanna Murray-Smith's play for ages eleven to seventeen.

One Act Play Festival (11-17) - To be announced.

* Denotes Carryover
All shows are subject to change.