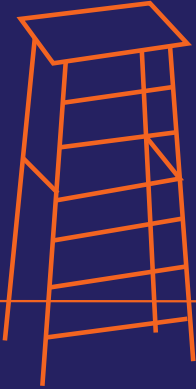


* PHHS presents:

Our Town

a play in three acts

THORNTON
WILDER



2023 Fall Play

Saturday Nov. 18th • 7:30pm

Sunday Nov. 19th • 2:00pm

Penn Hills High School

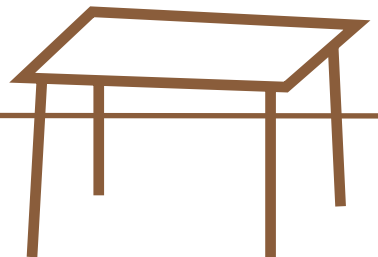
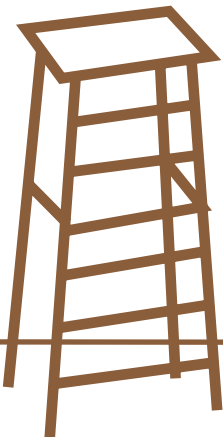
Penn Hills High School presents:

Our Town.
A Play in Three Acts.

AUTHOR:
WILDER, Thornton

PUBLISHER:
NY: Coward-McCann, 1938

A Samuel French, Inc. Title



High School Drama Awards

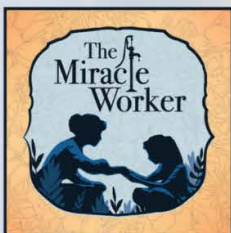


Our 4th annual drama awards recognize local area high school students and their accomplishments in creating their non-musical productions.

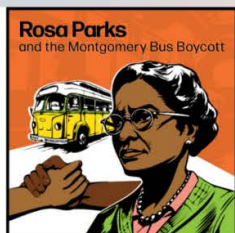
All positions involved in producing a stage production are important, and our award categories include both backstage and onstage roles.

The 4th Annual Awards Ceremony is January 29, 2024

Please join us at Prime Stage Theatre for our 27th Season as we Bring Literature to Life!



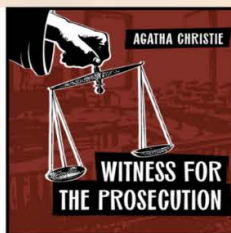
November 3 - 12, 2023



January 19 - 28, 2024



March 1 - 10, 2024



May 3 - 12, 2024



www.primestage.com

dramaawards@primestage.com

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS:

Considered by some to be the greatest American play ever written, 'Our Town' is a three-act play written by Thornton Wilder and first published in 1938. Set in the fictional small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire between 1901-1913, this play is about themes that affect every human being - life, love and marriage, and death. Wilder has written the play to be metatheatrical: the play comments on its own fictional status. The utilization of "breaking the fourth wall" (speaking directly to the audience, thus breaking down the imaginary fourth wall that separates fictional worlds from reality) is used throughout the play. The set is minimal, and actors tend to pantomime rather than use props.

'Our Town' is no stranger to the Penn Hills' stage and has special meaning to many within the drama department. Retired Penn Hills' music teacher and vocal coach for our spring musicals, Mrs. Barbara Spiri, played the role of Emily Webb on the Linton stage as a sophomore in 1970. Mrs. Claire Davidson, our Spring Musical Director and a retired English teacher of the district, directed 'Our Town' at Penn Hills in the fall of 2001, marking her debut as a director at Penn Hills in a career that has spanned two decades and over two dozen plays and musicals. She has greatly enjoyed working on this play again as an acting coach 22 years after she first directed the show. Current Penn Hills' High School English teacher Mr. Jeff Carey brought 'Our Town' back to the Penn Hills' stage in 2009, and there are perhaps other renditions of this famous story at Penn Hills that we have omitted. Regardless, it brings us great pride and excitement to bring this show back to the Penn Hills' stage and spread its influence on a new generation of Penn Hills' thespians!

Co-directing this show was truly a valuable experience. Last fall, we did shows that were more comedic in nature, so we decided to switch things up and do a classic drama this fall. This play has showcased the talent of our students and how easily they can adapt to various genres. Co-directing 'Our Town' at Penn Hills High School this fall has also been uplifting. We have all seen and heard unfortunate news about Penn Hills from the media in the past, and as Penn Hills' alumni, we both understand how disheartening this can be. Working with these talented and dedicated students has affirmed that Penn Hills is a place of great potential. We are sure you will be just as impressed as we are when you see the amazing talent presented on our stage. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the arts and our students; our students are proof that the arts still belong in schools! Please enjoy the show.

“OUR TOWN” SYNOPSIS

ACT 1: ‘Daily Life’, starts with the “Stage Manager” introducing Grover’s Corners, the people who live there, and their everyday lives. Characters such as Professor Willard and Editor Webb share with the audience details about the town’s history and demographics. Women gossiping after choir practice reveal that the church organist is an alcoholic. The whole town knows this, and while most look the other way, Mrs. Gibbs is concerned and shares her reservations with Dr. Gibbs. As Act 1 concludes, Emily and George look out their windows into the moonlight, yearning to grow up and romantically connect.

ACT 2: ‘Love and Marriage’, jumps forward three years, and Emily and George are preparing to marry. George is a star baseball player, and many in the town are worried that his talents will be squandered if he marries. The Stage Manager stops the play to show what happened between Emily and George a year prior, when George decided to forgo college and stay home and work in preparation for taking over his uncle’s farm. As the action moves back to present time, Emily and George individually worry that they are not ready to marry, but go through with the wedding nonetheless.

ACT 3: ‘Death and Eternity’, moves forward nine years and takes place in a cemetery overlooking the town. The Stage Manager brings the audience up to speed, letting them know who has died over the past nine years. The undertaker and a young woman who is visiting for her cousin’s funeral discuss those that have passed and reflect on the lives they lived. The dead characters can be seen by the audience but not by the living Grover’s Corners residents, and they discuss how the living don’t have an appreciation for the little things in life as the dead now do.

Note: There will be a 10-minute intermission between each act.

CAST

Stage Manager	Ethan Herr
Emily Webb	Mariyah Bey
George Gibbs	Brandon Laus
Dr. Gibbs.....	Evan Oaks
Mrs. Gibbs	Sierra Albright
Mr. Webb.....	Sammy Tucci
Mrs. Webb.....	Taliah Smith
Mrs. Soames	Ashleigh Pickens
Simon Stimson.....	Jesse Tribley
Rebecca Gibbs.....	Cerissa Hampton
Wally Webb	Victoria Senge
Howie Newsome	Lurance Oswalt
Si/Joe Crowell	Alex Davidson
Professor Willard	Deja Miller
Constable Warren	Tarynn Everett
Samantha Craig	Julia Winkler
Jo Stoddard.....	Tionna Robshaw-Burrell
Ensemble	Quiaura Akitoye, Milan Bowens, Vivian Jefferson, De'Sheyla Richard, Sonny Walters, Aurora Wilson

UNDERSTUDIES

Stage Manager	Tionna Robshaw-Burrell
Emily Webb	Victoria Senge
Mrs. Gibbs	Vivian Jefferson
Mrs. Webb.....	De'Sheyla Richard

PRODUCTION STAFF

Directors..... Ben Blinn ('13), Loyal Jasper ('12)
Vocal Director Briana York
Acting Coach Claire Davidson
Costume Director Diane Tirio ('69)
Costume Assistants..... Terri Bistarkey('78), Margi Furey,
..... Barb Munford, Taylor Olszewski ('11),
..... Carol Remaley ('74), Melissa Webb
Student Costume Assistant..... Cassidy Burkovich
Student Director Tionna Robshaw-Burrell
Assistant Student Director Victoria Senge
Producer Christine Rautkis
Stage Crew Director Bill Holodnik ('79)
Student Stage Managers Taliah Smith, Vivian Jefferson
Sound..... Ben Blinn ('13), Mike Berkey
Student Sound Assistant Zach Burkovich
Lighting..... Ben Blinn ('13), Mike Berkey
Prop Master..... Kelly Frey
Program Christine Rautkis
Program Editor Don Blinn, Jr.

* Inclusion of graduation year indicates Penn Hills' alumnus. *

The logo features the word "Disney" in its signature script font at the top left. Below it, the word "FROZEN" is written in a large, bold, white serif font. To the right of "FROZEN", the letters "JR." are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background of the logo area is black with a trail of white dots that curves around the bottom of the word "FROZEN".

Disney FROZEN JR.

LINTON MIDDLE SCHOOL – SPRING MUSICAL

250 ASTER STREET, PENN HILLS, PA 15235

MARCH 21, 22, AND 23, 2024

SHOWTIME— 7:00 PM

SEE YOU THERE!

DIRECTOR'S BIO

BENJAMIN BLINN (Co-Director) is in his third year on staff at Penn Hills where he teaches 7th grade math at Linton Middle School and is the 7th grade boys basketball coach. He is a 2013 valedictorian of Penn Hills and a 2017 graduate of Clarion University, where he majored in Secondary Mathematics Education and minored in Athletic Coaching. He received his graduate degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Duquesne University (2020). Ben is an experienced performer, having appeared in productions at Penn Hills, Clarion University, and McKeesport Little Theater, among others. Favorite past credits include: Linus in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Dennis in *All Shook Up* (PHHS) and Bud Frump in *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* (PHHS).

LOYAL JASPER (Co-Director) is overjoyed to be coming back to direct *Our Town*. Before he directed for the Penn Hills theater department, he acted for the Penn Hills theater department. While he was a student, he participated in three shows at Penn Hills. They were: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, where he got to play his dream role, Lumiere. After graduating in 2012, he went to Thiel College for undergraduate studies and Slippery Rock University for graduate studies. While at each institution, he was both a participant and supporter of the theater programs. In 2021, Loyal came back to his alma mater to help direct the musical production of Disney's *Mary Poppins*, and he has been helping to direct every production since. Most importantly, he is so happy to be giving back to the program that has given him so much.

CAST BIOS

SIERRA ALBRIGHT (Mrs. Gibbs) is a freshman at Penn Hills High School (PHHS). She was Moana in Moana Jr. (Linton Middle School [LMS]) and Mayzie and Sour Kangaroo in Seussical Jr. (LMS). She is in the Marching Band where she plays the tuba among other instruments. She thanks her family for always supporting her in musicals and now plays.

MARIYAH BEY (Emily Webb) is a junior at PHHS where last year she performed as a Street Urchin in Little Shop of Horrors. After high school she plans to go to school for a degree in Performing Arts.

MILAN BOWENS (Ensemble) is a freshman at PHHS. She is in the PHHS Chorus. She enjoys modeling, acting, dancing and singing, and plans to learn more about piano and basketball. Milan thanks her mom for everything she has done for her and thanks everyone who has been there for her and thanks God especially. She tells the talented cast: "Break a leg!"

ALEX DAVIDSON (Joe/Si Crowell) is a senior at PHHS. They performed in the ensemble for Mamma Mia (PHHS), Sophie and Alex in Check Please (PHHS) and as Mrs. Trotter for James and the Giant Peach (LMS). They play percussion and piano. In the future, Alex plans on studying Performing Arts.

TARYNN EVERETT (Constable Warren) is a senior at PHHS. Her favorite credits include: Ali in Mamma Mia (PHHS), Once on this Island Jr (Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts Magnet school [CAPA]) and James and The Giant Peach Jr (LMS). She enjoys singing, drawing and playing piano. She thanks her family and friends for their support of this show and hopes they enjoy it!

CERISSA HAMPTON (Rebecca Gibbs) is a freshman at PHHS. Her favorite credits include: Dorthea in Social Media (Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Summer Theatre '22), Gramma Tala in Moana Jr (LMS), and Jojo in Seussical Jr (LMS). Cerissa's hobbies and activities include: acting, singing, drawing, reading, and playing video games. She plans on expanding her acting career into becoming a voice actress. Cerissa thanks her family for all of the encouragement and support they give to help her become her best.

ETHAN HERR (Stage Manager) is a junior at PHHS. His favorite credits include: Sky in Mamma Mia (PHHS); Skip, Snip, Mr. Bernstein and Mrs. Luce in Little Shop of Horrors (PHHS), and Mr. Brooke in Little Women (PHHS). He plays hockey, fences and volunteers at his church in the tech booth. He plans to attend Dickinson University to study Law or Biology. He thanks his family for sticking by him and his friends for supporting and encouraging him throughout high school.

VIVIAN JEFFERSON (Ensemble, u/s Mrs. Gibbs) is a junior at PHHS. Her favorite credit is ensemble in Mamma Mia (PHHS). Her activities include Marching Band, Stage Crew (Crew Chief) and PageTurners. Vivian thanks her Mom, two siblings, her friend Rahne and past cast and crew that have helped her improve.

BRANDON LAUS (George Gibbs) is a senior at PHHS. His favorite credits include: Father Alexandrios in Mamma Mia (PHHS) and Hank and Chase in Check Please 2 (PHHS). He has been involved in theater for five years, helping with stage crew and lighting design. Brandon is a participant in Marching Band, Concert Band, Concert Choir and Jazz Band. He plans on pursuing music performance at West Virginia University. Brandon thanks the directors and stage crew members for making all of this possible and his friends and family for supporting him every step of the way. He wishes everyone good luck!

DEJA MILLER (Professor Willard) is a senior at PHHS. Her credits include: ensemble in Beauty & The Beast (LMS), Spider in James and the Giant Peach (LMS) and Mal in Disney's Descendants (Little Lake Theater). She enjoys performing, playing video games and spending time with her siblings, boyfriend, and cat.

EVAN OAKS (Dr. Gibbs) is a senior at PHHS. He is a member of the fall play and choir and enjoys playing his guitar and video games. He plans on studying music and becoming a producer or starting a band. Evan thanks his parents and the cast for all their support.

LURANCE OSWALT (Howie Newsome) is a senior at PHHS. His favorite credits include: ensemble in Mamma Mia (PHHS), Jones (metal head) in Check Please: The Final Chapter (PHHS) and Nicky in Our Place (PHHS). Lurance is an ambassador in his Girl Scout Troop, a member of the PHHS Marching Band Visual Ensemble (Color Guard), a member of the PHHS World Language Club and a member of the Soprano Alto (SA) group in the Allegheny County Choir. He enjoys painting, singing, and playing violin and guitar. Lurance plans on attending CCAC to major in Psychology and minor in Visual Arts. He thanks the cast and directors for making this a great senior play.

ASHLEIGH PICKENS (Ensemble) is a freshman at PHHS. Her favorite credits include: Tomatoa in Moana Jr (LMS) and Sour Kangaroo and Maizey La Bird in Seussical Jr (LMS). She is a member of the Big Red Marching Band. She thanks her family and friends who are always there to support her. She says: "Break a leg everyone!"

TIONNA ROBshaw-BURRELL (Jo Stoddard, u/s Stage Manager) is a sophomore at PHHS. Their favorite credits have been: Lisa in Mamma Mia (PHHS), Aunt Spiker in James and the Giant Peach Jr. (LMS) and Cat in the Hat in Seussical Jr. (LMS). They play the saxophone in the PHHS Marching Band and likes music, art and theater. Tionna wishes good luck to the cast and directors and says thank you for this privilege of participating in this year's performance!

VICTORIA SENGE (Wally Webb, u/s Emily Webb) is a freshman at PHHS. Her favorite credits include: Pua in Moana (LMS), Gertrude in Seussical (LMS), and the Ladies' Garden Guild in James and the Giant Peach (LMS). She is a member of the Girls Tennis team and plays clarinet in Concert Band and Marching Band. Victoria thanks all her teachers, directors, and coaches for helping her make it this far and continuing to support her.

TALIAH SMITH (Mrs. Webb) is a junior at PHHS. Her favorite credits include: Ensemble in Mamma Mia (PHHS). She is a member of the Black Student Union, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Language Club, Drama Club, Stage Crew, and Marching Band. Taliah thanks her parents and grandparents for all their love and support and the rides they have given her.

JESSE TRIBLEY (Simon Stimson) is a sophomore at PHHS. His credits include Tod in Check Please (PHHS) and James in James and the Giant Peach (LMS). Jesse is a member of PHHS Marching Band (mellophone), PHHS Concert Band (French horn) and Theatre Club. He plans to pursue writing after college and study Slavic (Serbo-Croatian) languages and literature.

SAMMY TUCCI (Mr. Webb) is a junior at PHHS. His favorite credits include: Dr. Orin Scrivello in Little Shop of Horrors (PHHS), Von Hussler in Mary Poppins (PHHS) and Grasshopper in James and the Giant Peach (LMS). Sammy is a member of Games Club and enjoys playing video games, the guitar and drawing. He thanks his family and friends for their support and wishes the cast and crew the best of luck.

AURORA WILSON (Ensemble) is a sophomore at PHHS. Some of their favorite credits include: Ensemble in Mamma Mia (PHHS), Bird Girl 1/Judge Yertle the Turtle in Seussical Jr. (LMS), and Ensemble in James and The Giant Peach Jr (LMS). They are a member of Show Choir, Drama Club, Art Club, and the Color Guard in the Marching Band. They love painting, drawing, writing horror stories and poetry, doing makeup and fashion, singing and dancing, and jamming out to the gothic deathrock of the 80's and 90's. They hope to either go into Marine Biology or SFX Makeup after high school. They wish their cast good luck, thank Mom for putting up with driving all over the place and asks everyone to stay spooky!

JULIA WINKLER (Samantha Craig) is a junior homeschooled at Journey Academy. Her favorite credits include: ensemble in Mamma Mia! (PHHS), Niko in Wizard of Oz (Stage Right! Greensburg), and ensemble in Frozen Jr (Stage Right! Greensburg). She is a member of the Color Guard with the PHHS Marching Band and some of her favorite activities include: art of all types, jewelry making, and sewing. Julia plans to pursue a degree in Art Therapy. She thanks her fellow cast members, instructors, costumers, and parents for doing what they do to make this production possible.

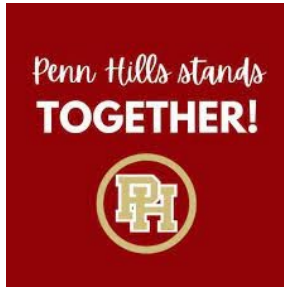
STAGE CREW

Crew chiefsTaliah Smith, Vivian Jefferson
Asst Crew Chief Nevaeh Gibson

CREW

Ashleigh Pickens
Jesse Tribley
Sierra Albright
Rynn Everett
Dillon Jones
Hayden Brewer

Jacob Lightcap
Laila Smith
Mansur Zaynullin
Mikeal Epperson
Quiaura Akitoye



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PENN HILLS SCHOOL BOARD:

President Mrs. Erin Vecchio
Vice-President Mrs. Evelyn Herbert
Ms. Jackie Blakey-Tate, Mr. Joseph Capozoli, Ms. Devon Goetz,
Ms. Marisa Jamison, Dr. Robert Marra,
Mrs. Nicole Richardson, Mrs. Meryl Thomas

PENN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

Interim Superintendent Ms. Dawn Golden
Business Manager Mr. John Zahorchak
Director of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Mrs. Renel Williams
Chief Recovery Office Dr. Dan Matsook
Penn Hills High School Administrative Staff
Principal Mrs. Tricia Mayo
Associate Principal.....Ms. Jacqueline Dorsett
Associate Principal Mr. Lucas McCall
Associate Principal.....Ms. Melissa Mosco

Thank you for supporting the arts in our community & schools!

Penn Hills HS Spring Musical!



April 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2024
Character Breakfast March 9th, 2024