

# Local drama club having 'a ball' in 'Cinderella: Youth Edition'

## WJHS to perform classic Rodgers & Hammerstein show March 25 & 26

By Kristine Coulter

Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella: Youth Edition" will be performed by the Wappingers Junior High School Drama Club. Performances are set for March 25 and March 26 at 7 p.m. at Wappingers Junior High School, 30 Major MacDonald Way, Wappingers Falls. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, children and seniors. For more information, call 845-298-5200.

"We were between a few great options for plays but "Cinderella" seemed like an easy choice for me. It seems like everyone could use a little magic and familiarity right now. We can count on this musical to serve up heaping helpings of both," said Maggie Bogan, Stage Director, via email.

Asked about rehearsals, Bogan stated, "Rehearsals have been going really well - you can tell that both students and advisors are so relieved to be back at it. The creativity of these kids is amazing! The flexibility of these students is also amazing. The pandemic has thrown us plenty of curveballs and they have continued to keep focused and positive, which has been crucial to this process."

Student Russell Clark portrays "The Herald."

"I play the part of the Herald. He's the prince's assistant and he keeps the prince in check at the Ball," answered Russell via email.

Asked what made him want to be in the production, Russell remarked, "I feel like theater has always been a favorite hobby of mine. COVID canceled many shows, and I am very excited to be part of a show this year."

As for the scene Russell enjoys perform-



The Wappingers Junior High School Drama Club will present "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella: Youth Edition." Performances are set for March 25 and March 26 at Wappingers Junior High School in Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photo

ing, "[W]here I'm trying the slipper on all the ladies. I get to have more time with all the others I haven't had scenes with."

Ciela Sotomayor, who is a member of the ensemble, said about a favorite scene in the show, "It's in the first scene where the prince is giving the ball. The herald gives his message that the prince is having a ball."

The daughter, a person in the palace staff and staring maiden are just a few of the roles attendees will see Ciela portray.

"The most exciting part of the rehearsal process for me is the first "off-book"

rehearsal. As soon as the students have those lines memorized and can put their whole effort into building their character, they naturally find more meaningful and/or comedic moments. The whole dynamic of the play shifts and falls into place and it blows me away every time," said Bogan, who noted the production has gone smoothly because of "the advisors, volunteers, and helpful parents who want to see WJHS Drama succeed." Bogan continued, "There are no words to adequately express my gratitude. Come to the show and see the result of a whole

community putting in 110%!"

Russell said people should come to the show "because if you're a little kid you might enjoy theater in the future. If you're an older kid, you can see your favorite movie on stage."

Ciela said come to the production because "the kids have worked hard on this show and it will be very entertaining to watch."

Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella: Youth Edition" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

# WMCHHealth teams up with Renegades as official hospital partner

Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth) and the Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, announced a major partnership making WMCHHealth the inaugural Official Hospital Partner of the Renegades.

"Our organizations are cornerstone brands of the Hudson Valley and touchstones for life events for residents of the communities we serve," said Michael Israel, President and CEO, Westchester Medical Center Health Network. "As a network, we are deeply committed to ensuring the health and wellness of

those in our local communities, and being able to partner with the Renegades presents a tremendous opportunity for us to advance that mission through new initiatives and programs."

At the heart of the partnership is a comprehensive community program that will have a lasting impact on Hudson Valley residents. Among the highlights of the community programs will be annual events promoting both partners' dedication to the health and wellness of the communities they serve.

WMCHHealth, which employs more than 13,000 people and has nearly 3,000

attending physicians, will become the title sponsor of the Renegades Community Program, and the presenting sponsor of HOPE Week (Helping Others Persevere & Excel), a yearly organization-wide charitable initiative started by the Yankees in 2009. They also become title sponsor of We Care Wednesdays, a weekly promotion throughout the season aimed to integrate the non-profit community within Dutchess Stadium.

"The Renegades are elated to welcome WMCHHealth into the Renegades family!" said Steve Gliner, President and General Manager of the Renegades. "It was clear to us from the start that WMCHHealth

exemplifies many of the same community-focused values we hold true to our organization, and the synergy that exists between our two organizations will make for a very successful partnership."

The Renegades will also help to give back to the Foundations of WMCHHealth with the new Runs for a Cause program. Each run scored at home during the season aims to encourage crowd-sourced fundraising efforts for the various subdivisions of WMCHHealth's network of services, including but not limited to, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a member of WMCHHealth and the only acute care children's hospital in the region.

## Sloop Club to present program on eels April 2

The Beacon Sloop Club's 2022 Lecture Series Presents, "All About Eels" with Benjamin Harris, NYS DEC, on April 2 at 11 a.m. Come to the waterfront to learn about one of the Hudson River's most mysterious inhabitants. NYS DEC's Benjamin Harris will review what is known of these fascinating fish, and opportunities to participate as a citizen scientist in the Hudson River Eel Project.

Each Spring, members of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation carry out a monitoring program across the Hudson River to assess juvenile American eels. The American eel

(*Anguilla rostrata*) is a migratory fish; baby eels arrive all across the East coast from the Sargasso Sea each year to live out their lives in freshwater tributaries before returning to the ocean to spawn. This event will be geared toward all ages, so bring your friends and family.

The event will be held at the Beacon Sloop Club, 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon (next to the ferry dock). The event is free and Kid-friendly.

For more information: [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org) 845-463-4660, 914-879-1082 or on Facebook Event Link: <https://fb.me/e/31XABQizY>.

## Thrift shop seeks volunteers

The Nifty Thrifty Thrift Store in Fishkill is looking for volunteers. Anyone

interested should stop by the store, 1004 Route 52, and pick up an application.

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