

Cappies Information Sheet



What is Cappies?

- The Cappies is an international program for recognizing, celebrating, and providing learning experiences for high school theater and journalism students and teenage playwrights.
- Basically the Tony Awards but for High School Theatre.

How do I apply?

- Write a one-page review of a play, musical, or even movie that you have recently seen.
- Make sure to include the performance (acting, singing, and dancing) and tech (lighting, sound, special FX, hair, and makeup) aspects of the show, as well as its **strengths and weaknesses**, throughout your review.
- If you have already been published on our team, you do not need to apply :)

What's expected on the SPHS Cappies Team?

- Although not a weekly commitment, every member is required to see **a minimum of 5 shows** a year, so when we are scheduled to see a show, you are expected to be there with the team. (If you have a conflict, let Emily, Leslie, or Ms. G know immediately.)
- You **must** volunteer for two extra shows
- Shows are usually Friday nights, Saturday matinees and nights, and Sunday matinees.
- Make sure to **remain updated** in whatever form of communication, GroupMe, iMessage, FaceBook, email, etc. the team uses to stay informed on important information needed.
- As this team represents Severna Park High School, put a solid amount of **time and effort** into **each and every one** of your reviews.

Important Dates:

Application Due Date: Friday, September 13

Training Day: Sunday, October 13

Voting Day: Sunday, April 19

Cappies Gala: Sunday, May 24

Attached below are two of Severna Park's published reviews as examples. Please do not copy these, as we want to you **your** writing.

If you have any questions, please ask Ms. Germanos, Emily Allgair, or Leslie Robinson. Good luck!

Emily Allgair
Severna Park

Submitted for publication to *The Tribuain*

With one operatic tenor, one hotel room and one bottle of tranquilizers, as well as high energy, quick wit and great chemistry, the cast and crew of South River High School's "Lend Me a Tenor" left the audience in laughing hysterics.

Set in Cleveland, Ohio during 1934, world-renowned Italian opera singer Tito Merelli is meant to perform for a sold-out theater. Tito and his wife Maria arrive late to their hotel room, causing him to miss his rehearsal for that night. Saunders, the stress-ridden manager of the opera, tells his assistant, and future son-in-law, Max, to keep an eye on Tito for the sake of the show. After a dramatic fight with his wife and stomach pains, Tito takes an entire bottle of tranquilizers, causing him to fall into a deep sleep. Max and Saunders mistake Tito for dead and realize they need a solution before the opera that night. Max reveals his secret love of singing opera music and the two decide that Max will impersonate Tito for the show. The crowd believes that Max is the real Tito Merelli and is blown away by his sheer talent. During the show, the real Tito wakes up and tries to go to the opera house, but is thought to be an imposter and is turned away. This causes mayhem and after a wild goose chase, slamming doors, and lots of running, everyone realizes who is the real Tito Mirelli and who is really Max.

Because of the silly storyline, the actors had to play big characters, and they most certainly did. AJ Farber (Max) held a gawky, awkward persona that worked well with Ryan Hoover's (Saunders) loud and angry presence. The dynamic between these two very different characters made Farber and Hoover stand out as wonderful additions to this show. Sean Hirsch (Bellhop) made a lasting impression on the audience with his quick wit during his first scene that cued giggles as he walked on stage, before he said his lines, during the rest of his stage time. Lee Jean (Tito) used his clever wit and quick reactions to leave audience members cracking up, all while using an Italian accent. Maggie Hayes (Diana) and Kelsie Bridgewater (Maggie) also used their opposite characteristics to create another beautifully portrayed dynamic that brought out other merits of the way they performed their characters.

The set for this show was very well thought out and beneficial to the actors and audience. Becca Thompson created a split-screen view of a hotel room with a bedroom and a living room using a door and the imagination of the audience and the actors, which allowed the audience to see what was happening in each room. Not only was it an innovative way to separate events, it also eliminated the need of scene transitions, supporting the overall flow of this fast-paced show.

South River's "Lend Me a Tenor" admirably demonstrated farce comedy while leaving the audience in utter amusement and laughter.

Leslie Robinson

Severna Park

Submitted for publication to *The Cavalier Chronicles*

Hold your hat and hang on to your soul/ Something's coming to eat the world whole!" Set in the most "innocent and unlikely of places," Glen Burnie High School's "Little Shop of Horrors" was an engaging and emotionally vibrant tribute to the original.

Based on a movie of the same name, the book, written by Howard Ashman, and the music, by the renowned Alan Menken, all came together to set the scene of a 1960's Skid Row, New York. Seymour, a nerdy teen, is working at a flower shop alongside his longtime crush, Audrey. Everything changes when he finds an unusual plant one day, naming it Audrey II. He soon finds out that the plant thrives on human blood, causing hilarity and horror to ensue.

The entire cast was integral in creating the mood and feel of the setting with attitude and enthusiasm, enhancing the simple, effective set. Bookending the show, full cast numbers "Skid Row (Downtown)" and "Finale Ultimo (Don't Feed the Plants)" were lively and brought the show together. Also notable was the creative twist of including student-written harmonies in their songs!

Fred Fairson as the diminutive, shy Seymour was a delight to watch onstage. He portrayed his quirky and conflicted character spectacularly, with impressive physicality. As his ill-treated love interest Audrey, Addie Hartwell brought to life the ditzy yet lovable blonde bombshell. Their chemistry in such an iconic song as "Suddenly Seymour" kept the audience firmly rooting for this couple to defy the odds and live happily ever after "somewhere that's green!"

The side-splitting Messiah Rogers brought the house down in his song "Feed Me (Git It)" as the voice of the ruthless Audrey II. With clear vocals and impressive comic timing, he was definitely an audience favorite. Making the crowd root for Audrey's freedom, Garrick LaMere's convincing depiction of the abusive, conniving dentist Orin complemented the diverse set of characters. Nevaeh Patron's great performance as Skid Row Girl, Ronnette, stood out as her vocals were excellent and her choreography executed with passion.

Kaplan's lighting design was creative and fun, with lighting cues that reflected and enhanced the emotions and action, such as the colors green and purple signifying Audrey II. The actors demonstrated professionalism by singing passionately through minor sound hiccups. Additionally, the colorful costumes, designed by Ross Earley, were excellent and historically accurate. The sheer quantity of costumes for the Skid Row Girls was impressive, while also stylish and musically thematic.

"Little Shop of Horrors" at Glen Burnie High was executed with great zeal and determination, fulfilling all the thrills and chills the audience wanted from this classic comedy. Just remember this word of warning: "Don't feed the plants!"