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September 11, 2024

Sterling Teens Perform Onstage at The Hanover Theater



(L to R) Sterling teens Matt Trombley and Rylie Schoville performed onstage at Hanover Theater and Conservatory for the Performing Arts on July 26-27 in a youth production of the Broadway musical "Legally Blonde."

Photo by Mike Henrickson, Hanover Theater

by Melissa Southwell

On Saturday, July 27, two Sterling teens took their final bow as high school musical-theater students in a rendition of the Broadway musical "Legally Blonde" at Hanover Theater and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Worcester.

Rylie Schoville, 18, and Matt Trombley, 18, took part in their last performances as part of the theater's youth summer program, an intense three-week training and education

program culminating in an onstage performance.

Rylie and Matt have been students at Hanover for multiple years in both the summer and year-long acting programs for teens. Their experiences have honed their technical abilities, confidence, and friendships as they discovered their passion for the performing arts.

"Having that last moment on a beautiful professional stage, I was able to take a deep breath and soak

it all in," said Rylie after her role as Serena. "I will remember how everything I did as part of the theater led me to where I am now."

Matt, who played the role of surly Professor Callahan, deliberately sought to push the boundaries of the usual characters he's played. "It definitely gave me reassurance that I'm able to deliver a performance and get the audience to respond in a way I've never done before," he said.

Hanover's youth summer program – in its 15th year – is purposefully designed to give students a pre-professional experience of a theater career. Students work with multiple professionals in the core areas of dance, music, and drama and focus closely on the synchronicity of ensemble work.

"Students learn acting techniques and how to make choices to develop the character. They then get to apply

CONTINUED PAGE 20

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STERLING TEENS PERFORM ONSTAGE AT HANOVER THEATER from page 1

that training to their performances,” said Meghan Montaner, president of the theater’s Conservatory and Education division.

While students work to advance technically, the primary goal of the program is to build the confidence, commitment and collaboration that is fundamental to success in the industry.

“More than anything, I hope that the students understand that they are capable of more than they thought before they entered the program. When they are committed to the work, anything is possible,” said Montaner.

Rylie and Matt, 2024 graduates of Wachusett Regional High School,

are both off to college in the fall as musical theater majors. They agree that they feel prepared, grateful, and ready for the next chapter of their theater aspirations thanks to their experiences in the program.

“Hanover was a big inspiration and showed me it was possible to do this for my life,” said Matt, who will attend Molloy University’s competitive CAP21 Musical Theater Conservatory program in New York.

On her way to the University of New Hampshire, Rylie credits her theater experiences in making a difference in all aspects of her life. “The drive and hard work you learn at a performance you can apply to everything you do.”



(L to R) Sterling teens Matt Trombley and Rylie Schoville at Hanover Theater Photo by Mike Henrickson, Hanover Theater

GIRL SCOUTS ARE STILL MAKING A DIFFERENCE from page 4

along with learning that it’s ok to make mistakes, that making mistakes is not necessarily bad, that we all learn from our mistakes. “The Girl Scouts should be a safe place for girls where they don’t have to impress anyone, where girls can just be you.” She says.

Local Girl Scout troops are self-funded, primarily through the Girl Scout fall fundraising effort which includes sales

of popcorn and magazines as well as the Girl Scout cookie drive.

No girl is turned away from the Girl Scouts because of costs. While membership dues are \$35 per year, any family who has difficulty with that is offered financial assistance. The only other costs are basic uniform items such as the sash or dues to the troop, which average \$2

per meeting, and are decided upon by the troop leader.

“Girls don’t have to be part of a troop to participate!” Baldyga states. Our Juliette program is designed for girls who have a schedule that may not allow for participation in the troop meetings, especially as girls get older and have their own job schedules.” Girls in this program have full access

to all the materials, and there are programs specifically for the girls in the Juliette program. So any girl, even if there is no local troop or a troop that meets at her schedule, can participate in Girl Scout programs.

If you would be interested in learning more about the Girl Scouts, joining a troop, or starting a troop, call: 508-365-0115 or email: info@gscwm.org.

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