

Report for Board: Dance Department

- Preparations for Thriller
- Thriller shows at the Covey Oct 12-15
- Preparations for Wide Awake Assembly
- Performances of Wide Awake: Oct 17 and 28
- "Up With People" Master class Sept. 15th

4 artists from Up With People worked with the dancers and shared 2 international style dances and taught them to the students. 2 of them were from Denmark and one from Bermuda and one from Mexico. The kids were fully engaged and it was a dynamic experience.

- New Faculty are doing great! New ballroom teacher: Cesar Rojo, New Hip Hop teacher: Kotahi Tarawhiti, Tap: Megan Adelsberger, Ballet and Yoga: Amy Asay
- One of our instructors won the SALT choreography competition: Mady Beighley
- We have been invited to perform at the World Parliament on Spirituality and Peace at Kingsbury Hall Nov. 19th. We are preparing a Hip Hop piece to Black Eyed Peas "Where is the Love"
- All students have been participating in Zena Romette Floor Barre to help with core strength and alignment.
- Cross Academy classes are working well: Yoga and Movement for Stage.
- Internships:
 - Vince Castillo and Kjadyce Beckman with *Odyssey Dance Utah*
 - Assisting with *Will Dance For Kids Project* and fundraiser.

Board Report for Theatre Academy:

- advanced Musical Theatre students are working on choreography and staging for a number from "Babes in Toyland" (we will use this at the Gala)
- our industry class just finished a script analysis production project, and is going to begin a group production design
- all musical theatre students are workshoping solo songs to prepare for performances (may use some for the gala)
- acting students are working on duo/trio scenes by Anton Chekov (realism)
- beginning acting students just completed a biography project which included a monologue performance
- puppetry students are constructing "big mouth" puppets
- all students are working on vocal technique skills in those classes
- musical theatre students are improving tap, jazz, and ballet technique
- as an academy, we are working on professionalism and preparedness
- guest workshop for the entire academy Monday with professional musical theatre actor Dalllyn Balis
- we will be having an International Thespian Society induction ceremony in November to induct new members to the honors society (staff and faculty and parents will be invited)
- November 7th attending a stagecraft class at West Jordan High School to help with Shrek build
- registering for UTA conference and prepping senior scholarship auditions by November 23rd
- Shrek auditions October 25-26, call backs October 27-29
- New vocal tech teacher Davis Christensen

Report for Board- Music Academy

NEW ACADEMY DIRECTOR HIRED

Our previous Music Academy Director, Sam Payne recently resigned from his position to accept a job at Brigham Young University. Replacing him is longtime PHS instructor, Kelly Kuhnen, who began her new role on September 30. Kelly is as passionate about education as she is her craft and has already made a big impact moving the Music Academy forward, including adding two new classes to the schedule, Improvisation and Beginning Songwriting.

FIRST MUSIC ACADEMY CONCERT OF THE YEAR

On Friday, October 14, we had our first Music Academy concert of the year. It was a smashing success on several levels. The students were excited to play and it showed in their performance. Audience attendance was the highest for any Music Academy concert we have held at our building. It was an electrifying evening that sets the bar for all our future performances this year.

ENSEMBLE PLACEMENT BY ABILITY

Thanks to the new schedule, we were able to return to the original vision of the Music Academy and have musicians organized in ensembles by ability. At the beginning of the year, we had a week of placement auditions and tests to make sure each student was in the CORE band or class that fit his or her ability the best. Since students have been placed according to their ability (with CORE I being a beginning band up to CORE IV as the most advanced band), students have been able to have a sense of accomplishment when they master a song, and haven't felt any unnecessary pressure (which can sometimes happen when playing with others who are above one's ability). We think this creates a better environment for students to challenge themselves and each other. Friday's concert proved this model is the best for us moving forward.

JACOB LUTRELL ASSEMBLY

The Music Academy has a tradition of bringing in the biggest names in the music industry for workshops with our students. Previously this has included members of bands like the Neon Trees, Dave Matthews Band, Fictionist, and many more. On October 12 we added another great name to that list - hit songwriter, Jacob Lutrell. When Jacob mentioned some of the songs he's written and some of the artists he's written for and with (Justin Bieber, Tori Amos, Jason Derulo, Celo Green, Jamie Foxx, and Charlie Puth to name a few), the students really took note of what Jacob was saying. It was a fantastic experience for our whole academy!

SHREK

At the initial planning stages of PHS, the vision was to have combined performances involving all of our academies, including using the Music Academy for the pit orchestra for musicals. That vision is finally becoming a reality this year as our Pit Band class will be providing the music for the PHS production of "Shrek". This will be a great experience for band members, the cast members, and of course, the audiences.

WIDE AWAKE SHOW

Our Pit Band is doing double duty by preparing for our school-wide suicide prevention assembly show, Wide Awake. They are ready to go. Opening performance is (was) Monday, October 17 at the first PHS Monday Concert Series.