

CHILDREN'S SHOW "FLAT STANLEY JR." DELIVERS

by Sahar Khan

On January 23 and 24, Parkland High School's theatre department presented "The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley Jr." in the auditorium. This production was directed by Ms. Elizabeth Smith and produced by Mr. Mark Stutz. The show's Musical Director was Mr. Frank Anonia and Mr. John Greth served as its Technical Director.

"[The play] was a lot of fun! There [was] a lot to watch and we [had] a bunch of really cool things like light sabers, a shooting star that [came] down, disco balls and beach balls," said freshman Bridget Kiernan. Kiernan played a Cool Kid, the Sneak Thief and a dancer in the show.

"The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley Jr." is written by Timothy McDonald and tells the story of a little boy who travels around the world and goes on several adventures after he is flattened by a bulletin board. The musical was a good entertainment for elementary students; they surely appreciated it because



The cast of "Flat Stanley" poses on its set.

of its amazing sets, cast and costumes.

"[Stanley's] newfound flatness allows him to do all kinds of things he's never been able to do before, and after being flown as a kite and stuck in a tree, Stanley talks to his friendly mail lady who suggests he send himself as a letter to wherever he'd like to travel," said junior Shannon Varcoe.

One of the qualities that set the show apart from others was that it did not have just one setting but several full sets. This gave the children a chance to see the different scenes, such as Stanley's house, Hollywood, Hawaii and France.

"It really brought the audience along with Stanley to each place that he traveled. The colors that we chose were bright and cheerful which really spoke to the theme of such a fun and exciting show," said Varcoe. Making different sets for every scene



was not an easy task. Stage crew members Varcoe, senior Kelly McMahon, senior Megann Seebeck and senior Maura McKeon tried their best to display to the audience the importance of sets in the play.

"It was definitely more work, though maybe not harder. In a way, it was almost easier, because we had a new environment

for everything and we never had to stretch a set piece to make it fit in everywhere," said McKeon.

Also, since the show was targeted towards children,

the set designers made the stage more colorful than the sets for the previous productions. Each set was completely different than the rest of them and gave the audience the feeling of actually visiting these places along with Stanley.

"The thing about theatre is that it is very visual. Although people, children, especially, do have fantastic imaginations, it's so much easier for them to become a part of the scene when there is something there. I also think that building the types of sets we did made this show into something bigger and better than it would have been if we'd only done enough to get by," said McKeon.

The role of Flat Stanley Jr. was portrayed by freshman Will Marshall.

"And honestly, the kids in our show



photos courtesy of Frank Mitman

"Flat Stanley" stage crew poses on set. just did such a fantastic job with it. They were all super-talented and were able to turn this show into something none of us expected," said McKeon.

Marshall and the rest of the cast tried to make the musical an enjoyable experience for everyone. Everyone's acting and vocal talent made the show even better.

"I absolutely loved the 'In a Tree' scene, where Flat Stanley sings his silly song in a tree full of bird girls. It was a nice break from the fast, catchy songs to have something slow and pretty," said McKeon.

Apart from acting skills, vocal talent and the set designs, Costume Designer Linda LaDue did a terrific job in making the costumes live up to the standards of the play.

When asked what she liked best about the show, Kiernan replied, "Everything! I loved the energy. The cast was great. Everything tied in together and it worked out well."

All in all, it was clear that the audience enjoyed this year's children's show because of the variety of sets, amazing actors and singers, as well as an adventurous and entertaining plot.



HOT NEW MUSIC WARMS UP WINTERTIME IN LEHIGH VALLEY

by Dolly Malik, Rachel Holly, Alex Hess

In today's up-and-coming music scene, there seems to be a focus on what is next, the hottest bands coming on the horizon. One notable act, Eye Alaska, is currently featured on the PacTour sponsored by clothing retailer Pacific Sunwear, affectionately known as PacSun to its loyal customers, alongside names like Saosin, Innerpartysystem and P.O.S. They recently made a stop at the Lehigh Valley Mall in November to do a six-song acoustic set at the local PacSun retailer, chanced off an Ernie Ball guitar and did a meet and greet with local fans.

The first thing one notices about Brandon Wronski is most likely his hair. Floating around in the grey area between mohawk and mullet, it makes the man easy

to point out in a crowd, something that draws immediate, and varied, attention. Walking down any given street, it could garner looks of admiring approval and friendly thumbs ups, to masks of horror and stern looks of reproach. Wronski, energetic frontman of Eye Alaska, seems determined to apply his blatantly unique, indie-rock sartorial sensibilities to his music as well. The result is something definitely worth listening.

Eye Alaska's genre-breaching, eclectic sound, which ranges from soaring, electronic-based power pop-- see "Stop Me Now...I'm Not Ready"--to upbeat, dancey rock and roll ("Walk Like a Gentleman"), has its roots in Wronski's interest in film scores.

"I take inspiration from a lot of movie scores and from people like Carter Burwell," said Wronski in an interview

at the meet and greet, referencing the composer of the score of teen favorite *Twilight*.

Wronski, who has hence referred to Eye Alaska's work as "cinema rock," formed the band with friends and veterans of the Orange County, California music scene in 2006 and signed to Fearless Records in February of 2008, leaving them still fresh to the music industry.

This overall newness may well be the most notable element of Eye Alaska, from it coming their desire to permeate genre barriers and create a sound that is uniquely theirs. The band's first full-length album, *Genesis Underground*, released in early July of 2009, proudly and flagrantly displays this attitude. Even knowledge warehouse Wikipedia stutters and trips over itself when trying to classify the album, dubbing it a conglomeration of

"alternative," "indie rock" and "R&B."

The band as a whole expresses excitement over being part of PacTour, noting that it is much more large-scale than anything that they have experienced before.

"It has been an experience touring with everyone on PacTour," said Wronski, "hanging out with the guys from the other bands. It has been pretty rad," he added, belying his California roots.

At the same time, Wronski conceded that he prefers being on the small stage, up close and personal with the fans. Digressing briefly to make his point, Wronski spoke of a song he wrote years previous, addressed to an old love interest.

"I never got around to giving it to her," he said. "It was a pretty bad home recording, on a cassette tape. It just sat

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