



Senior Greg Roberts crowned Mr. Parkland 2010

by Chelsey Falco

On February 20, 2010, 22 senior boys took to the Parkland High School stage. They strutted their stuff and showed off their talents, all hoping to be named "Mr. Parkland." Of course, only one boy can take that title. The judges took a long time to choose a winner, but once the winner was announced the audience went wild.

Greg Roberts was chosen as the 2010 Mr. Parkland. Many members of the audience were not surprised by the announcement, but Roberts was. "I wasn't sure if I would win or not," said Roberts. "I really thought everyone was very good though, which made winning such an honor for me."

Senior Tracey Malandra, a good friend of Roberts', felt differently. "I knew Greg would win the competition from the start. Everyone loves G-Rob!" said Malandra.

Roberts' life after Mr. Parkland is not much different than it was previously. He does mention that he gets many comments, especially from his friend Neil Asnani trying to get him to mess up in gym class. Roberts also mentions that he does in fact get to keep the Mr. Parkland crown. He had to ask first before he walked away with it illegally, but the crown now belongs to him.

The whole Mr. Parkland experience was a terrific one for Roberts. It was challenging, and it took until the night of the show until he really had the dance moves memorized. The moves were not easy to learn, but Roberts did his best. As for advice to future Mr. Parklands, Roberts just wants to tell them to have fun with the experience and to enjoy it while it lasts. "And feminine dietary supplements do not hurt," jokes Roberts in a nod to his humorous piano-playing, stand-up comedy routine.



photo by Ashley Youwakim
Greg Roberts is elevated by his victory.

His musical comedy talent was one of the bright points of the show, but Roberts is quick to point out that many of the guys were talented. He notes that Nate Guth was hilarious, and Josh Campbell was creative and entertaining. He also found Noah Delin's routine to be original and profound, while Matt Car made an awesome Austin Powers, and Ryan McCarty and Mark Wunderly had amazing musical talents.

Roberts' praise of his competitors proves how nice of a guy he truly is. He is known for being an overall good guy and a talented soccer player. Most of all, classmates

know Roberts for his sense of humor.

For example, when asked what was the most important thing Parkland has taught him, he answered with "Parkland has taught me some insanely important information...but the most important is that without a hall pass, life is basically meaningless."

As a senior, Roberts is looking towards college, but he has not yet made up his mind. He knows he wants to go to college, but he is not sure what to study. As of now, his major seems to be indecisiveness. And for all the ladies wondering, Roberts does not have an ideal girl. He claims that if he did, he would date her.

Greg Roberts is now famous at Parkland High School, but there is still one question he seems more than happy to answer.

"I don't actually take Women's Vitamins. I hope that isn't disappointing to anyone. I haven't really even been taking Men's Vitamins or regular vitamins for that matter lately. One time, when I was taking my daily vitamins daily, we ran out of coed vitamins and my mom offered me some other ones and they happened to be Women's Vitamins. I refused to take one because I was legitimately scared of the possible effects. Whether or not that inspired my story, I'm not sure."

"Timeless Love Story" of Aida comes to stage

by Lauren Ranzino

This year's highly anticipated spring musical, Elton John's and Tim Rice's Aida lights up the stage April 8th through 10th. Evening shows play at 7:30 pm all three nights and a 2:00 pm matinee on April 10th.

Aida is not the typical play. It starts out with a prologue; a story told in modern day. Two tourists are in the Egyptian wing of a museum when they notice each other. A statue of Pharaoh Amneris comes to life and the audience is transported back in time to witness the story of Aida, a Nubian princess captured and enslaved by the Egyptians.

Caught in a classic love triangle, Aida, played by junior Morgan Reilly and Egyptian military commander, Radames, played by junior Josh Rice, fall in love. Radames, however, is engaged to the Pharaoh's daughter, Amneris, played by senior Kiri Tamte-Horan. As the two characters from warring nations fall in love, they are forced to make difficult decisions that could result in their infinite separation or death.

The play concludes with the same scene of the tourists in the museum, where the statue reveals more about the happenings in the play.

For Aida, a huge number of students have been casted, due to the nature of the musical. There are numerous soldiers, ministers, women and Nubian

slaves, singing and dancing throughout the performance. Additionally, there are about twenty students in stage crew and just as many in the orchestra.

With so many scenes – twenty-four to be exact – Parkland has had to rent many of the props, which include a massive turntable with multiple settings for the story.

As the play takes place in the desert of Egypt, special planning went into certain details, like the lighting, which was adjusted to give the feeling of unbearable heat. Mr. Anonia said that every element of the musical went into "capturing an organic feeling" for the musical. Another fun feature is a huge sand pit on stage that cast members will be able to run through.

Morgan Reilly, who plays Aida, commented on the musical. "Aida has been such an incredible experience. The members of the cast work so well together; we're like a gigantic family. The energy and life they bring to the show is amazing. And of course the stage crew is equally fantastic. They spend countless hours setting the gorgeous scenery and lights. Tie it together with a breath-taking score and a beautifully touching story, and you have one amazing production that has been my privilege to be a part of."

Parkland High School's Aida takes place on April 8th, 9th and 10th.

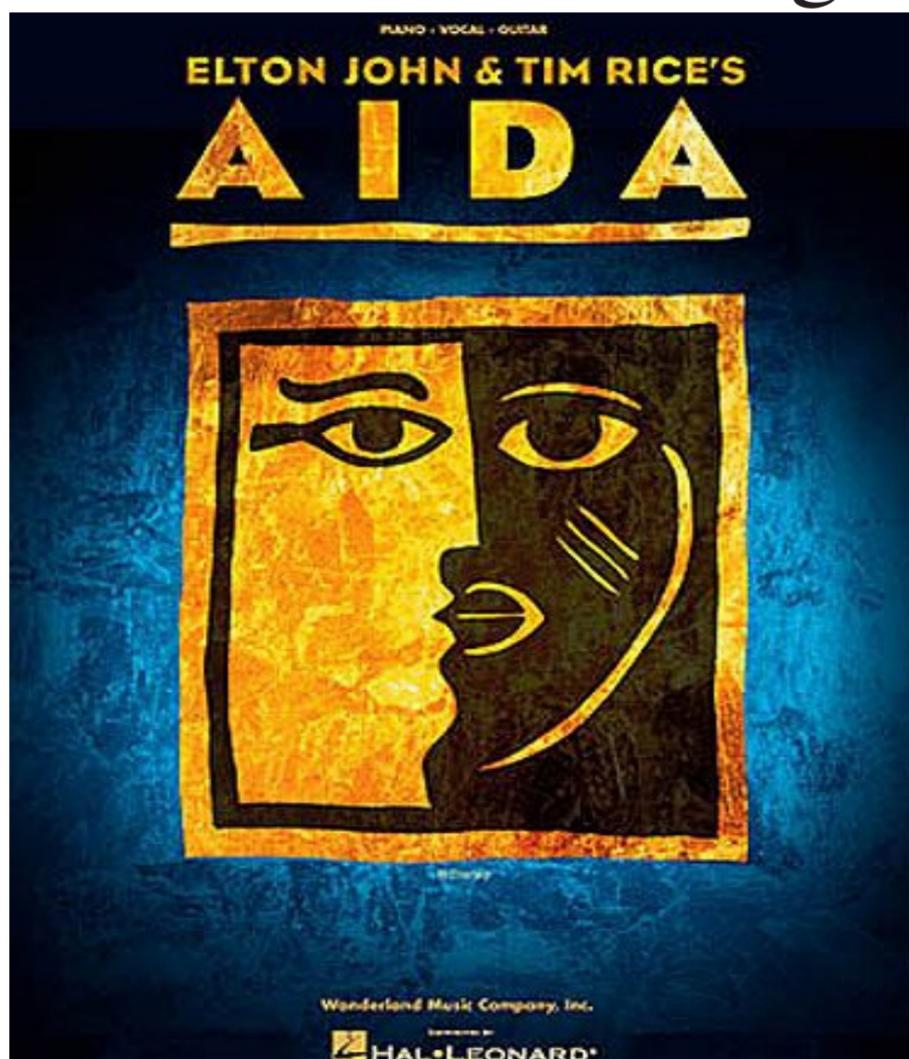


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The Trumpet