



Columbia Pride

January 10, 2020

A forum for student expression at Columbia Secondary School in New York City

January 14: Boys Basketball , CSS gym . . . January 18: Future City Competition, 9 a.m. . . . January 20: School Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

CSS Is Alive With ‘The Sound of Music’

The musical opens tonight and runs through Sunday

BY NAOMI HANDWERGER

The Sound of Music, a classic Broadway hit, which was performed on Broadway between the years of 1959 and 1963, comes to CSS this weekend.

This musical is older than shows the school has produced in recent years, which were set in cities, including Hairspray (2002-2009) and In the Heights (2008-2011). The Sound of Music takes place in the mountains of Austria during World War Two, and features the relationship between a nun turned nanny, a widower and his seven children, each child having his or her own unique character.

As the school was selecting this year’s musical, there was tight competition between The Sound of Music and The Music Man. Professor Daniel Attridge, the musical director, and Joey Brenneman, the director, are co-choosers when it comes to the musical, along with choreographer Allison Beler.

Usually this decision is made quite early — often spring of the year prior. This year, the musical was chosen a week after auditions, due to the back and forth debate over which of the two musicals would be performed. However, The Music Man was eliminated as an option because of its return to Broadway next semester. Because of this, CSS was not able to attain the rights to this show.

“Because each musical belongs to a different company, we had to go through a lot to get the rights,” Attridge said. Since we did not get the rights for The Music Man, this classic show will not be put on stage this year at CSS.

Professor Attridge joked, “I guess they thought CSS would pose a threat to the Broadway production!” He said that CSS wanted to select a “classic Broadway hit” with memorable songs, which

Continued on Page 2



This show is much older than those put on in recent years.



More Photos, Page 2

Musical

From Page 1

perfectly captures the essence of *The Sound of Music*.

One major factor that plays into the musical is the diversity of the CSS student body. CSS takes pride in its diversity and all the cultures and different people in the school community.

Professor Attridge said, "In terms of school population, we want to choose musicals that both accurately reflect the student body, such as *In the Heights*, and musicals in which students may not have an opportunity to perform in the professional or amateur world otherwise, due to what the musical calls for."

In terms of this year's performance, CSS is presenting a diverse cast, instead of the usual white actors. "Art of theatre is becoming someone you are not (aka... acting!)," Attridge said. "A particular population should not exclude musicals, and the musical should not



exclude populations. Having said that, Our goal is to present musicals from an array of styles that represents an array of populations."

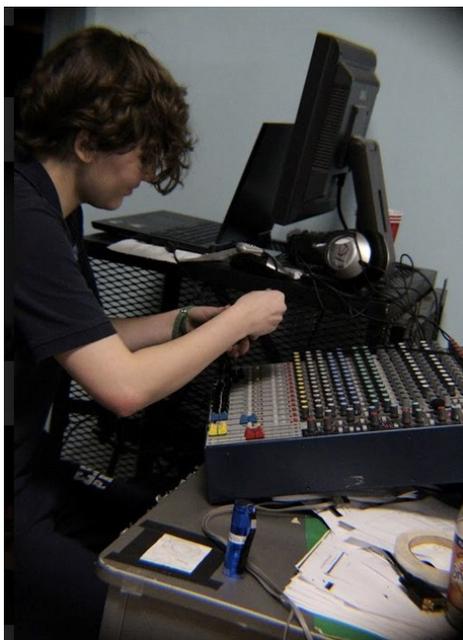
The Sound of Music also contains many

controversial topics, such as Nazism. Professor Attridge said, "What I will say is that we would not be doing anyone justice by censoring history; even a violent history repeats itself unless we confront it and respond accordingly. . . . xenophobic and racist acts seem as present today as they were in 1938." The swastika symbol will be replaced with red armbands, which also represents the theme of hate. "We believe that the red band represents the hatred and meaning of the swastika, and it's simplicity also stands in for the hate, xenophobia, and dogmatic systems of today as well."

Professor Attridge described this year's musical as "transcendent," and he declines to comment further.

The *Sound of Music* will be performed on:
 1/10 @ 7pm
 1/11 @ 2pm and 7pm
 1/12 @ 3pm

Photos of cast and crew by Omar Schmitt



Uniform Redesign Contest Is Extended

BY DIEGO FIGUEROA

After only receiving 5 submissions from the student body, Student Government has extended the uniform redesign contest deadline to January 13. The government officers felt as though this initiative had to be taken in order to offer the student body more time to craft new designs.

As expressed by Vice President Theo Frye Yanos, "We did get some designs...which are very promising...but we think we can get more if we keep promoting it throughout the week." And government has certainly done that each day this week, but offering more time allows "even more people to vote on the contest," said Frye Yanos.

Student Government seeks more entries and creativity.

The shortage in entries has prompted the government to also email the submissions they have received — 5 designs ranging vastly in execution.

This brings up the question, of what exactly is the government looking for in your design? Frye Yanos relayed the message, "What I would say we are looking for primarily is for people to be creative. As we said it should say CSS Pride, have a lion, and have blue in it, but other than that you can really be cre-

ative with it. We have a lot of really good artists at this school, so if that is you then by all means at least give it a shot."

Another issue resides in the quality of the designs, how much effort does the design need to show to make it into the final vote. The vice president stated that "generally some had a lot of effort put in and some not so much, so we would definitely encourage people to put effort into their designs. The ones that have good effort will definitely be in the vote, whereas the ones that did not will not be in the final vote."

Designs can be submitted to:

hsgovt@columbiasecondary.org