

Brave young actors bring new musical comedy to life for first time

Creating characters never before seen on stage is a breeze for these young actors (ages 8-18)

(Filed under: Arts, Community, Family & Children, Things To Do, Calendar)

APPLE VALLEY, MINN. — Forte Summer Theater, in partnership with the Apple Valley High School Performing Arts Department, announced today the first-ever production of **PLUCK!** A new musical comedy by Minnesota playwrights G.J. Clayburn and Rick Raasch. A group of 44 brave young actors, ages 8-18, are playing characters never before performed on stage. The original play previews on July 25 and has two performances on July 26 and 27, 2019. All performances are at the Apple Valley High School Theatre.

Clayburn, a resident of Lakeville and graduate of Apple Valley High School, has worked with the company in all five of its summer productions. Raasch is a resident of Savage. *Pluck!* marks the fifth local production of one of his plays.

But the stars of the production are the group of actors working three days a week to bring it to life.

“It is amazing to watch these young performers inhabit roles for the first time,” said Debbie Mason, the production’s director. “It’s common for the kids to watch videos of past productions on YouTube as a frame of reference. There is no safety net here.”

Apple Valley High School Dean of Arts & Activities, Bill Blatzheim added, “It’s wonderful to see the activity in the building this summer. AVHS has always had a strong tradition of excellence in its performing arts programs, and the fact that one of the playwrights of this work graduated from AVHS is a testament to that tradition.”

Inspired by Greek Mythology, *Pluck!* follows the adventures of Penelope Poole, and her colorful friend Peggy Sue the Pegacorn, as they traverse history in search of the inspiration--and perspiration--needed to complete an impossible quest. It's a tale of coming of age and finding yourself ... in the company of muses, schmoozes, stinkbugs, and other evil geniuses. *Pluck!* is humorous and creative musical theatre that will appeal to audiences of all ages.

Every role is being performed for the first time by young actors from more than 15 different elementary, middle, and high schools. All performers are ages 8-18.

“What I love about Forte Summer Theater is that the kids get to meet new friends during the summer while learning about the process of creating a live theatrical experience,” Mason said. “The playwrights informed us the other day that the kids names will appear in future editions of the script as the original cast – how cool is that?”

ABOUT THE SHOW

- What: *PLUCK!* A new musical comedy by G.J. Clayburn & Rick Raasch
- When: July 26 & 27 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - FREE preview performance for seniors and educators on July 25 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Where: Apple Valley High School Theatre
- Tickets: \$8 adult; \$5 student/child
- Reservations: fortetheater.weebly.com or fortetheater.seatyourself.biz
- Who: All ages

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ABOUT FORTE SUMMER THEATER (A program of Forte Fine Arts Academy)

Forte Fine Arts Academy is a community-based arts school in Lakeville, Minnesota devoted to providing a high-quality and accessible education to students of all ages and levels of ability. Our instructors strive to instill a lifelong appreciation of the arts through creative teaching and nurturing learning experiences.

ABOUT APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Apple Valley High School (AVHS) is part of the award-winning Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools, which provides boundless opportunities and infinite possibilities for students to learn and grow. AVHS is a STEM school dedicated to academics, arts and athletics. Opened in 1976, AVHS pioneered the "AAA" philosophy of emphasizing a well-rounded experience in academics, arts and athletics. By offering a wide variety of classes and co-curricular opportunities including arts opportunities in band, choir, dance, and theatre, AVHS established and continues to build upon a long track record of success across the entire AAA spectrum.

PRESS CONTACT

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