

## **Sagemont, a Private School in Broward, the Arts Are Alive and Well!**

*Drama and the Arts are alive and well at The Sagemont School, a private school in Broward County, as students take to the stage with four different musical productions this*

May 6, 2010 (FPRC) -- Students at The Sagemont School have been bitten by the acting bug and have so far produced three stage productions this spring. The Sagemont High School Drama Club took to the stage at the new Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center located on the Nova Southeastern University campus. The group performed "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." This musical comedy is an adaptation of the last novel written by Charles Dickens. Since Dickens did not finish the book, the play is traditionally performed with multiple endings and the audience participates in picking the ending. Eleventh grader, Christopher Merlino, states, "By having the audience be such a driving force in the outcome of the plot, we had to go back to one of the roots of acting which is improvisation. This was a challenge because of the element of the unknown. We couldn't rely just on the script." Merlino and fellow actor Dean Malahias were nominated for a prestigious Cappie Award for their work in this play. Approximately 25 plays were reviewed by schools throughout two counties. Winners will be announced at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on May 18.

The High School Thespian Troupe returned from April's annual State Thespian Competition with three top Superior ratings and two Excellent ratings.

Sagemont's fourth and fifth grade drama club performed Disney's 101 Dalmatians for their annual musical. As the mean spirited Cruella de Vil, fifth grader Taylor Schear took over the stage in her first leading role. Sungchul Park and Sebastian Zozaya played Cruella's not so bright henchman perfectly and provided the audience with many humorous moments. But it was the puppies who stole the show, as well as the supporting cast of Boxers, Scotties, Chihuahuas and Poodles who came to the puppies' rescue. Fourth grader, Sage Morris, who made her stage debut in this show, said, "I thought I would be so nervous, but when the curtain opened, I forgot all about that!"

Sagemont instructors, Michelle Arango, Irene Perez and Doris Quintero provided the leadership for the cast and crew. Fourth grade teacher and first time director, Mrs. Perez was very impressed with the talent level of the elementary school students. "I was amazed at how quickly the children learned their lines, the songs and the dances."

Sagemont's middle school drama club is currently in rehearsals for their production of Peter Pan to be performed in mid-May at the Wannado City Theater in Sunrise. Drama and The Arts are alive and well at The Sagemont School located in Broward County, Florida.

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