

# The DALLAS POST

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Jake Sedorchuk tunes up for his part in a cabaret evening to benefit the Lake-Lehman High School Theatre Troupe.

## Cabaret raises \$\$\$ for theater

By SARAH HITE  
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You might think a musical as magical as "Cinderella," being performed by the Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School Theater group next weekend, would be as easy to coordinate as the flick of a fairy godmother's wand.

You would be wrong. The group has hosted dozens of fundraisers throughout the year to offset the costs of the show, including a cabaret/talent show held in the school's auditorium on March 25.

Gina Major Ackerman, director of the theater program at Lake-Lehman, has given her students the reigns in raising funds, and she puts the need for bake sales and other efforts bluntly.

"There is no budget for theater," she said.

The two-hour cabaret show featured 30 student acts and the event, combined with the bake sale outside the auditorium, raised nearly \$500 for the upcoming

### IF YOU GO ...

**What:** Rogers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella"  
**Who:** The Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School Theater Group  
**When:** 7 p.m. on Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9; 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10  
**Where:** Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School auditorium  
**Tickets:** General admission tickets are priced at \$6 and \$8 and may be obtained by calling the box office at 675-1761. Tickets can also be purchased from any cast member.

ing musical. The show was organized by eighth-grader Ronnie Ziomek, who said pulling the talent show together was "probably the hardest thing" he's ever done.

It took the 14-year-old from Lehman about three weeks to put the show together, including auditioning the acts and getting a piano player to accompany some of the performances.

"I just like planning and I think



Sam Lindley, of Hunlock Creek, grabs a cupcake at a bake sale held during a benefit cabaret evening for the Lake-Lehman High School Theatre Troupe.

I'm very organized," said Ziomek, who will play the town herald in "Cinderella."

Major Ackerman said it was difficult to have a cabaret show two weeks before the "Cinderella" production takes the stage, but the students were passionate about organizing the event that

will help pay for sets and other expenses of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical.

"Four hundred dollars - that's a set piece," she said.

She said the students have held weekly bake sales and also

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## Award garnered for examining 'Life After Death'

By SARAH HITE  
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Theresa Heintz was just 13 at the time of her father's suicide. Although the sting of that experience is still with her, Theresa, now 21, wanted closure for her family.

The York College of Pennsylvania senior turned to a video production class assignment to capture the healing process for her family after her father's 2003 death. The resulting documentary, "Life After Death," recently won an award.

Dr. James J. Heintz, a Wilkes-Barre orthopedic surgeon, was a marathon runner and triathlete dealing with injuries sustained from a bicycle training accident at the time of his sudden passing.

While Theresa said the family still has difficult days, the film she created has shown the positive growth her family has endured.

The film won an honorable mention from the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts for the short film, which Heintz will receive this month at the association's national conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

Her assignment was to document a "lived experience," and Theresa felt it was a good opportunity to work through the issues her family dealt with after her father's death. Rather than working with a partner, Theresa chose to work alone on the 12-minute film to ensure her family's comfort and honesty.

"I decided on working by myself because I didn't want to do another story," she said. "This would be a great chance to talk to my family and kind of maybe get closure out of the whole thing. If I worked with someone else, it just wouldn't have been as personal."

Theresa said she, her mother and two sisters have been through so much together since 2003, and she wanted the documentary to reflect how they felt then and where they are, emotionally, now.

"They all were just so supportive," she said of her family. "That's when I decided to just



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas resident Theresa Heintz, a senior at York College, poses with a photo of herself and her late father, Dr. James Heintz.

interview the three of them ... I wanted that to capture how personal the story is and how close we had become because of it."

The documentary features segments with Theresa's sisters, Katrina, 20, and Elizabeth, 23, and her mother Marian, who were interviewed separately for the film.

"When we all talk about it, we all have mixed opinions," Theresa said. "Sometimes we're mad, sometimes we understand, we're happy because he was (relieved of) pain (when he died), sometimes we're very sad."

Theresa said that, because she was the one behind the camera, her family members felt more comfortable expressing their true emotions on tape.

"I didn't know some of the answers when I asked the questions," she said of interviewing her family. "Because the camera was there, and I was behind it, they could answer it truthfully, so a lot of that was captured, like the realness of what they were saying and what they were feeling."

Theresa estimates she spent more than 200 hours on the video, from production to directing to shooting to editing. Students had the entire semester to work on their projects, and Theresa said she often came

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## High-heeled men struggle but walk to help women in need

By SARAH HITE  
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About 30 men and women donned high-heels for "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," an event to raise money for an organization that helps women in Africa, on March 26 at Misericordia University.

The fundraiser supported the Panzi Foundation USA, a nonprofit organization that aids victims of sexual violence treated at the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Con-

go. Amanda Caleb, professor of history and an organizer of the event, said the walk raised more than \$2,000 for the foundation, which she said will pay for eight fistula operations for women.

"Fistula occurs when a woman is raped and the trauma is so great, it causes leakage from her bladder," said Caleb. "The women are already considered outcasts and if they're leaking urine, it's a double whammy. This (surgery) gives them a better chance to go back to communities."

Caleb and two other Misericordia professors - Rebecca Steinberger, English department chairperson, and Amanda Van Lanen, a history professor - received a strategic initiative grant to raise awareness of Women's History Month on campus. Lee Ann de Reus of the Panzi Foundation spoke on campus in the fall, and Caleb

was so moved by the talk she wanted to show the Misericordia community that sexual violence is a global problem.

The "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event is not unique - the event is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. It began in California by Frank Baird to raise awareness about women who are victims of violence.

"One of the big things is that there are so many events going on, and this stands out," said Caleb. "It's certainly a challenge, and putting yourself in someone else's shoes is taken literally, so it's kind of different."

Glenn Bozinski, director of admissions at Misericordia, was happy to put on a pair of pumps in support of a good cause.

"You know, it was a little intimidating at first, but I think it was worse in my mind, in terms of physical difficulty," he said,

laughing. "I won't say it wasn't painful. It was tough on the toes."

Bozinski even spotted a prospective student being led around campus by a university coach, and he made a point to wave while walking in his bright red heels.

"I got a text from (the coach) that night and he asked me how my feet were doing," said Bozinski.

While Caleb said she heard some complaining during the event from some of the men, she said the event exceeded her expectations and she's looking forward to next year's event.

"I think we psyched ourselves up more in our minds than anything," said Bozinski. "I'm real happy the Misericordia community came out to support a great cause, and the guys put aside the fear of how they'd be perceived

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AIMEE DILGER/ THE DALLAS POST

Glenn Bozinski, director of admissions at Misericordia University, tries on a pair of heels before participating in "A Walk in Her Shoes" fundraiser.

