

Voorhees High School Presents: Catch Me If You Can

Voorhees High School Drama Club will be presenting the musical *Catch Me If You Can* on April 2, 3 and 4 at 7pm and April 5th at 2pm. *Catch Me If You Can* the musical is based on the true story of Frank William Abagnale Jr., who ran away from home at 16 when his parents' marriage disintegrated. He supported himself by writing bad checks. When his supply of checks ran out he started printing his own payroll checks. In an effort to meet girls and escape capture, he posed as a doctor, a Pan Am pilot, and a Louisiana prosecutor under assumed names. His misadventures in check fraud and false identity took him all over the world. Frank was pursued by numerous FBI agents, including those who the character Agent Carl Hanratty is based upon. Frank was eventually captured for his crimes.

The charismatic lead role of Frank Jr. will be played by Harry Sperduto, a Voorhees junior who many will remember from past roles including Ren McCormack in *Footloose*, Will Bloom in *Big Fish*, and Jimmy Ray Dobbs in *Bright Star*. When asked about what this opportunity meant to him, Sperduto said "Frank Jr. is a dream role for me and being able to play it right now (means) everything. This role has significantly impacted me in becoming a better person and a better actor, singer, and dancer. You have to have a drive, and that drive allowed me to achieve my goals in this show and allows me to surpass new ones every day".

The serious and slightly obsessive FBI agent in charge of bringing Frank Jr to justice, Carl Hanratty, is played by junior Mark Squindo. Mark's most recent role on the Voorhees stage was as Mayor Dobbs in *Bright Star*. Junior Ian Love will star as Frank Abagnale Sr., the master con artist, and Frank Jr.'s idol. Frank Jr.'s alluring French mother is played by junior dance captain Isabel Hepburn. Hanratty's top notch team of agents include Agent Johnny Dollar played by freshman Roman Melendez, Agent Todd Branton played by junior Stefan Stojanoski, who most recently was seen as Billy Cane in *Bright Star* and Agent Cod played by sophomore Tyler Zappa.

Ian Love whose past roles include Daddy Cane in *Bright Star*, and a comic turn as Zacky Price in *Big Fish* is excited for the opportunity to play Frank Senior. When asked about the challenges about this show, Love said "this role has challenged me in ways I've never been challenged before, but it has been a very worthwhile and rewarding experience to develop this character that is almost a complete foil to how I'd usually act". Junior Mark Squindo expressed a similar idea saying, "this show had me open up as an actor in ways that I didn't think I had been pushed (to do) before. (Being) Hanratty (has been) an amazing experience."

After months of running from the police Frank settles down and takes a job in an Atlanta hospital where he meets and falls for nurse Brenda Strong. Brenda is played by senior Nicole Rosales. Audience members will recognize Nicole as Wendy Jo from *Footloose*, Margot from *Legally Blonde*, the Witch from *Big Fish* and Mama Murphy from *Bright Star*. Nicole expressed her excitement about the upcoming show saying "*Catch Me If You Can* has greatly challenged me in aspects of dance, acting, and voice. Playing Brenda has been such a delight, she has given me strength through vulnerability. I can't wait for everyone to meet her." Sophomore and dance

captain Alastair Stewart plays Brenda's intimidating attorney father Roger Strong and senior Alexis Judd plays the energetic Carol Strong.

With new choreography by North Hunterdon dance team advisor and math teacher Megan Decker this ensemble is sure to entertain. Additional choreography has been provided by our creative and diverse team of dance captains including captain/choreographer junior Owen Tabor, and captains junior Grace Trumpy, junior Isabel Hepburn, junior Francesca Morella and sophomore Alastair Stewart.

Members of our ensemble include Arnold Alamendras, Kelly Deo, Isabel Hepburn, Alexis Judd, Mallory Kelco, Abby LaPointe, Ian Love, Tessa Maddaloni, Roman Melendez, Gabriel Meyer, Kaitlin Milleli, Mckenzie Miller, Frannny Morella, Mary Kate Palmisano, Olivia Piscopo, Evan Rodrigues, Nicole Rosales, Keira Scott, Harry Sperduto, Mark Squindo, Alastair Stewart, Stefan Stojanoski, Owen Tabor, Grace Trumpy, Josie Whitmore, and Demetria Ypsilantis.

Our music director is vocal music teacher Mr. Andrew Finck. Members of the pit orchestra include: Natalie Bavos-Chen, Isabel Birriteri, Megan DiGiovanni, Andre Flores, Henry Freligh, instrumental music teacher Mr. Aidan Giannelli, Taren Miller, Anderson Olson, former Lebanon Township Music Teacher Mr. Gary Ross, Ty Tansug, Ed Villamaria and Tristan Weber

The behind the scenes magic is completed by a very capable and motivated stage crew. The stage crew leadership consists of Stage Manager Emma Tyers, Assistant Stage Manager Olivia Hankinson, Student Sound Operators Thomas Larsen and Noah Rodgers, and Student Lighting Operators Fiona Libro and Mia Fosburgh.

This wonderful production is directed by Ms. Nancy Lomas-Reynolds. Her production staff includes Mr. Andrew Finck as Music Director, Miss Megan Decker as Choreographer, Mr. Bob Runge and Mr. Aaron Willsey at Set Designers & Builders, Miss Christine Salter as crew supervisor, and Mr. Joe Reynolds as Drama Club Advisor and Tickets and Publicity Coordinator.

Catch Me If You Can is one show you won't want to let fly away without getting a ticket. Tickets may be reserved in advance by calling the school at 908-638-6116 extension 7444 or by emailing Mr. Joe Reynolds at jreynolds@nhvweb.net. Advance tickets cost \$12 for students and senior citizens and \$14 for adults. All tickets purchased at the door will cost \$15. Additional ticket information is available at the Voorhees Drama Club website. www.nhvweb.net/vhs/theatre/.



The Voorhees Cast of *Catch Me If You Can* is ready to open on April 2

Photo : Melanie Kerr

From left: dance captain Francesca Morella as Cindy, dance captain Alastair Stewart as Roger Strong, Alexis Judd as Carol Strong, dance captain/choreographer Owen Tabor as Jack Barnes, dance captain Isabel Hepburn as Paula Abagnale, Ian Love as Frank Abagnale Sr., Harry Sperduto as Frank Abagnale Jr., Mark Squindo as Agent Carl Hanratty, Tyler Zappa as Agent Bill Cod, Roman Melendez as Agent Johnny Dollar, Stefan Stojanoski as Agent Todd Branton, Gabe Meyer as motel manager, dance captain Grace Trumpy as Mindy.



Photo: Melanie Kerr

Juniors Mark Squindo and Harry Sperduto will play the lead roles in Voorhees High School's production of *Catch Me if You Can* which opens April 2. Mark will play the role of Agent Carl Hanratty and Harry will play the role of Frank Abagnale Junior. Squindo and Sperduto most recently played father Mayor Dobbs and son Jimmy Ray Dobbs in Voorhees High School's fall production of *Bright Star*.



The Jet Set is ready to take the Voorhees stage. The show opens April 2.

Photo: Melanie Kerr

From left: Kaitlin Milelli, Isabel Hepburn, Mary Kate Palmisano, Dee Ypsilantis, Abby LaPointe, Tessa Maddaloni, Grace Trumpy, Harry Sperduto, Francesca Morella, Josie Whitmore, Kelly Deo, Olivia Piscopo, Mallory Kelco, McKenzie Miller, Keira Scott, Alexis Judd

Performances:

Thursday April 2 at 7pm

Friday April 3 at 7pm

Saturday April 4 at 7pm

Sunday April 5 at 2pm

Final Dress Rehearsal:

Wednesday April 1 at 4pm

