

CURRENT WEATHER

Click here for five-day
forecast for Oakhurst, CA



Cloudy
61F
Powered by
AccuWeather.com

COLUMNISTS

Ronna Adler
Judith Allender
Dr. Bill Atwood
Dwight Barnes
Daniel Blodgett MD
Cathie Campbell
Tom Elias
Jim Flanagan
Elizabeth Gabriel
Grace Grady-Barnes
Bryan Greeson
Mike Hackworth
Al Joyal
Tony Krizan
Ed Lyons
David Richards
Earlene Ward

EDUCATION

YHS students ready to dance, dance, dance

(Updated Friday, March 7, 2008, 12:53 PM)

The Yosemite High School Theater Arts Department is going multimedia for its spring play, "Dance Marathon."

The play is loosely based on June Havoc's "Marathon '33" about marathon dancing during the Great Depression. YHS teacher Lars Thorson adapted the script and directed the production, which includes a cast of 30 students.



Senior Sierra Strobel and junior Ryan Rogers have principal roles in the Yosemite High School Theater Arts Department spring production "Dance Marathon." The play is about a reality show dance contest seen on television and on the Internet.

Photo courtesy of YHS

The play will be performed March 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. and March 15 at 2 and 6:30 p.m. at the YHS theater.

It follows the story of young people engaged in a dance endurance contest. "Dance Marathon" is a reality television show where couples must dance for 50 minutes of every hour. The show is broadcast on television and on the Internet, and the young people fight for money, fame and a decent meal.

The play is set in 2008 and features salsa, hip-hop and swing dancing.

"The play portrays an unblinking view of an America addicted to watching people struggle to survive these turbulent times," Thorson said.

The ensemble cast is led by seniors Sierra Strobel, Anne Russell, Ben Hand and junior Ryan Rogers. Strobel and Rogers play two contestants fighting to achieve their dreams while Russell and Hand play the show's cynical host and producer.

"My character doesn't want to be on the show in the beginning," Strobel said, "but she gets sucked into the excitement and ends up fighting really hard to win. Also, the dancing is a lot of fun."

The play also includes multimedia elements. Thorson blends video sequences with a live camera, which projects images from the play onto a large screen. He said audiences have become so media savvy that multimedia elements are necessary to keep the audience engaged.

"I want the audience to see the actor on stage and also see their facial expressions on the big screen," Thorson said. "Seeing the performer in both two and three dimensions gives the audience the feeling of seeing a live event and simultaneously watching the event on TV."

The play's backstage crew finds the technological aspects of the play an interesting and worthwhile challenge.

Sound designer Butters Morss said, "We have the video screen, tons of cues, special effects, but the harder it is to do, the more fun it is for us. Any dummy can sit in the back and turn the lights up and the beginning and down at the end."

"Dance Marathon"

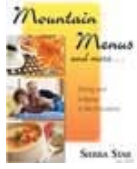
March 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.; March 15 at 2 and 6:30 p.m.

\$8 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens and students without ASB cards; \$5 for students with ASB

Information or reservations: (559) 683 4667, Ext. 256



Published every Wednesday!



Looking for Dining or Lodging?
See what our mountain area has to offer.
Download Mountain Menus!

Home - News - Features - Calendar - Sports - Obituaries - Crime - Education - Announcements - Opinion
Ads - Archives - Classifieds - Submissions - Subscriptions - Subscriber Services - Community Links - About

The Sierra Star
49165 Crane Valley Rd [426] | PO Box 305 | Oakhurst, CA
93644-8621
Phone (559) 683-4464 | Fax (559) 683-8102



Copyright © 2007 The Sierra Star