

the liberator

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THE BEAT OF A NEW

drum



ROBBY COLE | staff writer

Students in the LASA Raptor marching band spend hours after school preparing their show for competitions. This year, students and observers got to enjoy the marching band's show "The Manhattan Project." However, senior Gus Serff-Roberts, the band's brass captain, explained that there been a lot of unique this year.

"This season we've had a lot of setbacks," Serff-Roberts said. "Obviously we had the challenge of a head band director leaving unprompted pretty close to the start of band camp."

Brian Mayor, the previous LASA band director, left LASA to direct the Dripping Springs marching band. The previous associate band director, Ponder East, stepped up to fill his role as Head Band Director, and Jesus Torres joined the LASA staff as the new associate band director to lend his expertise. Despite the change in staff, the passion and dedication of band members carried them through to produce yet another award-winning year.

According to Serff-Roberts, students found that they had to be more independent after the loss of a director. Serff-Roberts said that he had to take on more responsibilities regarding managing the band this year.

"Not only my role, but a lot of the leadership roles, have gone up and gotten a little more involved," Serff-Roberts said. "especially considering that the band director is new here, so he has to settle in the same way all of the other new members do."

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graphic by Kayla Le

SENIOR SOLO Seniors Claire Waggoner, Tony Lin, Aaryan Sharma, and William Yang perform a solo for the 2022 LASA Raptor Band marching show. The four were donned in letterman jackets to celebrate Senior Night. photo by Kayla Le.



A MEMORABLE ENDING Freshman, Kevin Li strikes a final pose at the finale of the Raptor Band marching show. This was the band's first full run of the show with props and special effects. photo by Kayla Le.



STAY ON BEAT Junior, Mateo Rives plays percussion in the marching show. The 2022 marching show was called "The Manhattan Project." photo by Kayla Le.

what's news



photo by Kayla Le

Martial arts demonstrations show students self-defense techniques

see **MARTIAL ARTS** page 17



photo by Annabel Andre

Local artists in East Austin open their workspaces to the public

see **AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR** page 12



photo courtesy of Zachary Suri

LASA students show their creativity through visual art, music, poetry, and more!

see **ARTISTS AT LASA** page 10

LASYA SANGANA | staff writer

As the third semester at LASA's new campus comes to an end, the Raptors have accomplished many milestones and produced various events including club activities, musical concerts, and pep rallies. Among the many is the Alley Cat Players production of LASA's very own fall play, "Twelfth Night".

Over the weekends of Nov. 4 and Nov 12, LASA theater's "Twelfth Night" play took place in the LASA theater. "Twelfth Night" is a romantic comedy written by Shakespeare, describing the aftermath of a shipwreck where the lead, Viola, thinks her twin brother is dead. As a result, Viola goes to infiltrate the court of Duke Orsino and is forced to woo Lady Olivia under the Duke's command. However, Lady Olivia falls in love with the disguised Viola. Senior Samantha Mason played Lady Olivia and was surprised by the love triangle that ensues as a result.

"It's really funny," Mason said. "It's shockingly funny for a Shakespearean comedy."

Mason said she was very excited for everyone to see the play, especially due to the fact that LASA theater has not done a lot of Shakespeare before, and Mason predicted that the show would be entertaining. However, Mason said there were some challenges to trying out a new form of theater.

"The biggest difficulty with the play we had is the fact that it is Shakespeare," Mason said. "Most of the people don't have a lot of experience performing Shakespeare."

Shakespeare originally wrote "Twelfth Night" in the early 1600s, and the language is different from modern day. Mason said that because of the play's difficult language, more experienced theater members helped the inexperienced.

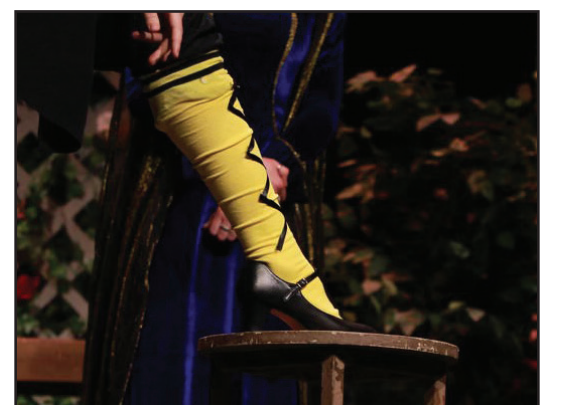
"Mr. Escandell, and a couple other people who have more experience with performing Shakespearean plays have done a really great job of trying to help the younger people," Mason said. "[It's been helpful for those] who may not have as much experience."

Mason said another difficulty this year was that they had a new director, Jason Escandell, one of LASA's sophomore English teachers. Mason said Escandell amazingly got everyone together, which is a notable feat especially for such a large company with a play of this scale, something especially hard to do as a brand new director.

"I'm excited for people just to see the work that especially Mr. Escandell has done as an incoming brand new director brand new to the program," Mason said. "He worked really hard."

Mason said that Escandell had very valuable Shakespearean knowledge and was great about helping the young performers perfect their scenes. Sophomore Piper Chen, who played Viola, the lead, said another challenge that arose this year which was working with new people.

see **TWELFTH NIGHT** page 14



A LOVE FOR YELLOW In Twelfth Night, Malvolio is asked to wear gartered yellow stockings to prove his love for Olivia. photo courtesy of Eloise Embry.



MUSIC TO MY EARS Feste the Fool, played by senior Kendra Vaz, and his jesters serenade Count Orsino. photo courtesy of Eloise Embry.

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Twelfth Night

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED Sir Toby, played by sophomore Nadia Lott, casts a hopeful glance. Twelfth Night is the ACP's first production under the supervision of new theater director Jason Escandell. photo courtesy of Eloise Embry.

TAKEN ABACK Sir Toby, played by sophomore Riley Wayt, hears a shocking proclamation from Olivia (left). photo courtesy of Eloise Embry.

LOOKING UP Sir Andrew, played by sophomore Nadia Lott, casts a hopeful glance. Twelfth Night is the ACP's first production under the supervision of new theater director Jason Escandell. photo courtesy of Eloise Embry.

PLAYBILL

LASA ALLEY CAT PLAYERS