

Pointe Players to perform 'She Kills Monsters'

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

The Pointe Players at Grosse Pointe South High School kick off their new season with performances at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 10 to 12, of "She Kills Monsters."

The play, written by Qui Nguyen in 2011, tells the story of Agnes Evans, who tries to get to know her deceased sister better by playing a Dungeons and Dragons module the girl had written.

Nguyen wrote an alternate version of the play, called the "young adventurers edition," which changes Agnes from a young high school teacher to a high school senior whose parents and sister Tilly, a freshman, are killed in a car accident. This version, which has been performed more than 800 times by high schools and colleges since 2020, according to the American Alliance for Theater Education, also cuts out profanity and other adult themes.

"The original version had 10 cast members, but we have 22 as I separated out some of the characters," Director Meaghan Dunham, who also teaches English at South, said. "We have so much talent I wanted to spread the wealth."

Ashton Fell, assistant stage manager and understudy for all of the male roles, called it a medium-sized cast.

"It's not as big as doing a musical, for



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of "She Kills Monsters" takes a break during a recent rehearsal.

example, but there are a lot of support roles," he said.

The main plot in the newer version remains the same, though, that of Agnes and Tilly being distant with each other due to completely different interests.

A large portion of the rehearsals has been devoted to the fight choreography among the monsters in the D&D set-

tings. "That can be an intimidating factor," Dunham said. "No one had any experience with it and in picking this play I had to make sure we had the kids who could learn it responsibly."

Ellie Johnson, stage manager, thinks the audience will enjoy those scenes. "It's fun to see how the actors incorporate the stage combat and use their weapons," she said. "They've

gotten really good at it." Gabrielle Duso, one of two student directors, said there is no dialogue during the fight scenes, making them more intense.

"The costumes are a little on the elaborate side, but not too much since the actors playing monsters each play more than one," she said. "They have to be able to change quickly."

Dunham said she and the students are excited as this will be the first fall show performed without masks since 2019.

"This will also be the first time we'll be using

CAST

- ◆ Narrator — Aliana Ritter
- ◆ Agnes — Lilly Hunwick
- ◆ Tilly — Malvina Lubanski
- ◆ Chuck — Dylan Samuel DeMarco
- ◆ Vera — Jules Kado
- ◆ Miles — Julian Leo
- ◆ Kaliop/Kelly — Rebecca Dral
- ◆ Lilith/Lilly — Char Van Arragon
- ◆ Orcus/Ronnie — Alex Cline
- ◆ Steve — Avery Barbour
- ◆ Farrah the Faerie — Aliana Ritter
- ◆ Evil Tina — Jolina Hutchingson
- ◆ Evil Gabbi — Nicole Vogler
- ◆ Monsters — Alyx Bocci, Brady Barbour, Mari Mueller, Sage Porter, Kai Tibbets
- ◆ Understudies: Ashton Fell — Men
- ◆ Ivy Prestin — Tilly/Kelly/Lilly/Farrah
- ◆ Syri Ibekwe — Agnes/Vera
- ◆ Sage Porter — Evil Tina/Evil Gabbi

PRODUCTION TEAM

- ◆ Director/Producer — Meaghan Dunham
- ◆ Scenic Design/Lighting — PJ Veltri
- ◆ PAC Staff — Adam Ferkovich, Cristina Karpinski
- ◆ Fight Director — Joe Wright
- ◆ Art Director — Dan DeMarco
- ◆ Stage Manager — Ella Johnson
- ◆ Student Directors — Spencer Yonkus, Gabrielle Duso
- ◆ Choreographer — Rebecca Dral
- ◆ Assistant Stage Manager — Ashton Fell
- ◆ Fight Captains - Ivy Prestin, Syri Ibekwe
- ◆ Costume Design/Crew — Ghost Lindsay, Lily Kester, Richie Barnwell, Alex Carter and Seely Troffkin
- ◆ Programs — Ellie Sahutske, Lizzy Gates
- ◆ Music Design — Spencer Yonkus
- ◆ Props — Isabella Rondini, Siobhan McGlone, Ashton Fell, Zoe Acker
- ◆ Scenic Artists — Stella Maes, Mari Mueller, Acorn Kish
- ◆ Sound/Projection Operator — Dominic Palazzolo
- ◆ Poster/Ticket/T-Shirt Design — Kai Tibbets
- ◆ Lighting - Mango Brower
- ◆ House Managers — Kate Ozar, Olivia Walton
- ◆ Photography — Siobhan McGlone
- ◆ Ticket Design — Kai Tibbets
- ◆ Ushers/Ticket Sales — Pointe Players



South choir to perform 'Sounds of the Season' in December

On Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10, the Grosse Pointe South choir will perform its annual "Sounds of the Season" show in the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center at Grosse Pointe North

High School.

The show will feature all of Grosse Pointe South's choirs — The Pointe Singers, Serendipity, Rhapsody in Blue, The Tower Belles and The Suspensions — as well

as solo performances.

Tickets for "Sounds of the Season" are on sale now on the choir's website, gpsouthchoir.org. They cost \$15 for general admission, \$12 for senior citizens and \$10 for K-12 students.

However, there is also another pricing option available starting this year, with balcony student tickets available for \$5. Groups of 10 people or more can use the promo code 10for10 to get a special group

rate for balcony seating.

Curtain time is 7 p.m. for the show Dec. 9 and, for the matinee performance Dec. 10, curtain time is 2 p.m.

— Michael Hartt



Literacy for Kids partners with author to launch book on legendary grandfather

Katie Yamasaki, granddaughter of legendary Detroit architect Minoru Yamasaki, recently visited Detroit to present and launch her latest children's book, "Shapes, Lines, and Light: My Grandfather's American Journey."

Grosse Pointe-based Literacy for Kids and Yamasaki co-hosted a field trip for 120 Detroit elementary students to Wayne State University's

McGregor Memorial Center, a building designed by her grandfather. Yamasaki's stories focus on social justice and underrepresented communities.

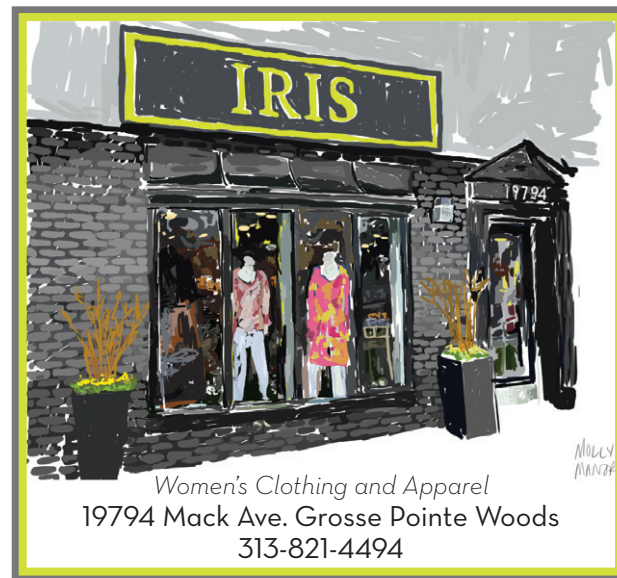
"Literacy for Kids aims to inspire a love for reading in children through personal interactions and art," said Heather Mertz, LFK's executive director. "We are thrilled to present Katie Yamasaki, who is not only an amazing

author and artist, but brings a personal connection to Detroit that we hope will resonate with students."

Yamasaki's "Shapes, Lines, and Light" charts the life and work of Minoru Yamasaki, including his childhood in Seattle's Japanese immigrant community, experiencing anti-Asian racism in post-World War II America and his successful architectural

career. Minoru Yamasaki designed New York City's iconic World Trade Center and created many structures in Detroit, including One Woodward Avenue — his first skyscraper — Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills and

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Literacy for Kids author Katie Yamasaki addresses students.

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