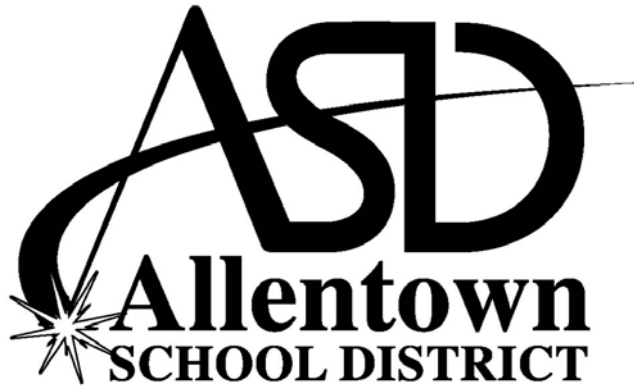


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**WILLIAM ALLEN THEATER PROGRAM NOMINATED FOR PERFORMING
ARTS AWARD; ASD SPRING CULTURAL CALENDAR INSIDE**

(Allentown, PA) January 28, 2005 – William Allen High School’s theater program received notification of nomination for the American High School Theatre Festival’s Award in Excellence. The nomination for the prestigious award must come from a member of the community. Approximately ten high schools from each state are nominated for the award. This is William Allen’s first recognition. Allen’s production of *Jekyll & Hyde* won regional recognition with a Freddy Award last year.

“Our students truly deserve the recognition for their hard work and talent,” says William Allen Theater Department Chair, Julie Palmè. “As a school district, this is a tremendous recognition to be chosen as one of the top ten programs in the state. I am so proud of our students and their dedication to the art. We have a great spring line-up that the students are working on already. I’m sure the best is yet to come in our theater program.”

On the heels of the award announcement, Allentown School District continues its active school year with two Broadway-style shows set for spring. **William Allen High School**, in conjunction with the South Mountain Theater Company, is producing the musical *Forever Plaid*. This musical comedy is known to demand lots of professional actors, but the talent at William Allen led to an easy decision to tackle this production. *Forever Plaid* features familiar music from the 1950's and 1960's. The show's performances will be held on February 24, 25, and 26 in The Black Box Theater at Allen High School in the Annex Building (corner of 17th and Linden Streets) with the curtain rising at 7pm for each show.

Students at Allen are also preparing for the follow-up to the successful winter show, *Holiday Hoopla!* with the spring musical *Sideshow*. The curtain goes up for Allen's performance of this former Broadway play on Thursday, April 28 at 7pm. Other performances will be held on Friday, April 29 on Saturday, April 30 with both shows starting at 7pm. All shows will take place in the William Allen Auditorium.

Louis E. Dieruff High School students will showcase their talents in this year's play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde. With rehearsals already underway, the students are hard at work perfecting their performance of this renowned comedy. In conjunction with the play, Dieruff students will be performing a series of monologues on social order; a topic brought to light in the play. The performances will be entertaining, education, and enjoyable. The lights go up at Dieruff for performances on April 14, 15,

and 16. All performances are at 7pm in the Dieruff auditorium. Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$5.

The Allentown Academy of Dance is celebrating its 10th anniversary in a performance entitled “**Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.**” Shows will be held March 4th and 5th in William Allen Auditorium at 7pm. The performance is an eclectic mix of dance history, modern dance, and future dance interpretation. To mark the 10th anniversary of the program, Dance Educator, Renee Lorenzetti-Graver and her students are creating a special number encompassing the best of the Academy’s first 10 years of performances. Tickets will be available at the door (\$5/ticket).

William Allen’s Dance Program was selected for several honors in the Eastern Dance Association’s (EDA) regional competition in Quakertown, PA. The Pom-Pom routine won 1st place and the Jazz routine placed 2nd; both performances qualified the team for the EAD’s National Competition in Myrtle Beach, SC on April 1-3. Dance Educator, Renee Lorenzetti-Graver, says, “This is a fantastic recognition for the team. The dance program continues to grow and thrive. The students are such truly talented individuals and work very well together as a team.”

WILLIAM ALLEN & DIERUFF HIGH SCHOOLS
SPRING PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

William Allen High School 484-765-5000	Forever Plaid	Feb. 24, 25, 26	All shows begin at 7pm.	Black Box Theater, William Allen High School Annex	Tickets: \$8 – Adult \$4 – Student/Senior
William Allen High School 484-765-5000	Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow	Mar. 4, 5	All Shows begin at 7pm.	William Allen High School Auditorium	Tickets: \$4 in advance \$5 at the door
William Allen High School 484-765-5000	Spring Band Concert	Apr. 20	7pm	William Allen High School Auditorium	Tickets: \$3 – Adult \$2 – Student
William Allen High School 484-765-5000	Sideshow	Apr. 28, 29, 30	All shows begin at 7p.m.	William Allen High School Auditorium	Tickets: \$8 – Adult \$5 – Student
William Allen High School 484-765-5000	William Allen Pops Concert	May 11	7pm	Milo J. Sowards Gymnasium (17 th & Turner Sts.)	Tickets: \$5
Louis E. Dieruff High School 484-765-5500	The Importance of Being Earnest	Apr. 14, 15, 16	All shows begin at 7pm.	Louis E. Dieruff High School Auditorium	Suggested Donation of \$5
Allentown Academy of the Arts 484-765-4000	Arts Gala	May 17	On-going performances 6:30-9pm Awards Gala 9pm	Allentown Art Museum (5 th & Court Sts.)	Tickets: Free and open to the public

South Mountain Middle School students are currently rehearsing for the musical comedy *Lucky Stiff*. Students are putting in lots of time to ensure this face-paced non-stop roller coaster ride of a show is impeccable. Performances of *Lucky Stiff* will be held at South Mountain Middle School on Friday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. and two shows on Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The show is also produced in conjunction with South Mountain Theater Company. South Mountain Theater Company Director, Alan Heckman, says, “The music in this show is fantastic, the comedy will leave you laughing, and the talent of the students at South Mountain Middle School will impress even the most seasoned Broadway spectator. The students are simply fantastic in the Allentown School District and its South Mountain Theater Company’s honor to be a part of the production.”

SOUTH MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE SCHEDULE

South Mountain Middle School 484-765-4300	Lucky Stiff	Apr. 14, 15 (2 shows on Apr. 15)	Apr. 14 – 7:30 p.m., Apr. 15 – 2 p.m./7:30 p.m.	South Mountain Middle School Auditorium, 709 W. Emmaus Ave.	Tickets: TBA
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About the Freddy Awards

The Freddy Awards are given in recognition and reward of exceptional accomplishments in the production and performance of musical theater in local high schools. The ceremony is fashioned after Broadway’s Tony Awards. A panel of experienced evaluators will view participating school's performances in the Lehigh Valley and Warren

County, NJ and critique various categories such as acting, singing, lighting, set design, etc. Five nominations are made in 20 award categories from all participating schools. These nominees are annually announced publicly and they are honored guests at the gala awards ceremony at the State Theater in Easton; this year it is scheduled for May 26, 2005.

About Allentown School District

As the fourth largest of 501 districts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown School District educates approximately 17,521 students in 23 pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools located throughout the City of Allentown, and employs over 2,000 administrators, professionals, staff members and employees. The District has successfully completed a three-year Empowerment Plan. 2002-2003 PSSA scores revealed 62.8 percent of all students were in the basic, proficient or advanced PSSA categories. Just under 70% of ASD's students take part in a district-wide free or subsidized lunch program.

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