



## **PALACE THEATRE REVIEW**

**By: Brooklynne Murdock Knowlton - Grade 5, Center School, Thomaston**

I went to see the play, “We The People” at the Palace Theatre. I was expecting actors dressed as famous historians acting out scenes from our country’s early history. It was much more than that, it was an astounding musical performance that I will never forget. As the show began the audience filled with joy. In this play you learn about how we can change the world.

We took a tour of the theatre and it was amazing. Something I learned was that the walls were faux marble, but the stairs and floor was real marble. Inside this grand theatre is the old box office from when it was first built. The new box office is next to the display of the old box office. You can really tell the difference from when your parents were young and now. A river, which is now called the Mad River, had to be moved so they could build an orchestra pit. This theatre has many more surprises and interesting facts about it to be found.

When interviewing the actors and actresses we learned how they felt on stage, why they chose to be an actor and more... one of the actors gave us an extraordinary quote from Walt Disney, it went a little like this, “It takes talent to be sure but it takes a drive to succeed.” Another actor said that he had many supportive people by his side when he decided to become an actor. I think that they were all very proud of themselves and were happy about how the audience reacted.

In the end, it was a truly great performance. I would go see it again if I could. This is just one place to see a Broadway production without leaving town. It was a wonderful experience that is unforgettable. So if you get the chance to, enjoy the experience I did, be a student journalist for the Palatial News.

## **WE THE PEOPLE**

**By: Kelly Langevin - Grade 5, Center School, Thomaston**

Before I went to see “We The People”, I didn’t know what to expect. As I walked into the building, I was in awe by how amazing it looked inside. 800-pound chandeliers hang from the high-decorated ceilings. The floors and stairs were made out real Italian marble. 4 painters painted the walls. They were painted to make them look like real marble. If you ask me, it’s pretty convincing! When the painters finished painting, they all signed their names on one of the railings in the Foyer room. You’ll enjoy sitting on red, comfortable seats in the wonderful theater. Gold pipes run down parts of the theater - only for decoration though. The ceilings are high and exquisite. Everything looked lovely.

Want to know something interesting? Well on every stage, there is a light .Why? People believe that spirits from other plays will come and cause mischief. So no matter what, there has to be a light on stage.

Learning about the theater was fun, but my favorite part of the day was watching “We the People”. “We the People” was phenomenal. All of the actors were fantastic. They got into what they were singing, and their voices were out of this world. Even though the play was full of facts, it was also hilarious. In one part of the play, the actors had to fall. The whole entire room filled up with laughter. The songs they sang were full of meaning and they sang them perfectly. They danced around in really cool costumes too.

The costumes they wore were awesome yet appropriate for the play. My favorite was a brown eagle costume. Overall, the play was fantastic. I would see it again and again if I could. I really enjoyed it. -Thanks for this wonderful opportunity.

**Q: Do you ever get nervous singing on stage?**

A: All –yes, well sometimes. When you’re up on stage, sometimes you just say your lines and you don’t even realize it. It’s like it just comes out of your mouth.

**Q: When did you realize that you wanted to become an actor?**

A: All-since, college forever, I always wanted to.

## **WE THE PEOPLE**

**By: Molly Gallagher - Grade 8, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Waterbury**

I was one of eight lucky students, from schools all over Connecticut to come and visit at the Palace Theater in Waterbury, CT. While I was there I received a very informational tour throughout the massive theater. I learned about the Green room, wardrobe, and hair room. I was also fortunate to see the prop room. It contained a lot of cool things that are needed in a lot of the plays performed there.

I saw the play "We the People". To be entirely honest, I thought it was going to be historical and boring. Boy! Was I wrong! It was funny, loud, kid friendly, and still historical! I enjoyed it a lot. The play is about a girl who is running for school president because it would look good on her college application. Then, four important men in history who are also rock stars (George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams) tell her she should run to make a difference. They explain a lot about the government and its rules. It informed u a lot about our government.

After the show all the students went backstage and interviewed the actors. We were allowed to ask one question each. The question I asked was "When did you know you wanted to be an actor/actress?" Here are a few responses from the actors: Josh Woody (Thomas Jefferson): At the age of nine I saw "Joseph and the Many Colored Dream Coat". I knew I wanted to do that and I thought I probably can. David Hand (Benjamin Franklin): I did not make the basketball team so a friend told me I should try out for the schools play. Peter Gosik (George Washington): I loved attention and knew I wanted to act. I remember standing on the picnic tables at my dad's softball game singing. I drew a lot of attention.

Going to the Palace Theater was one of the most exciting and memorable experiences of my life. I hope that I can return very soon

## **WE THE PEOPLE**

**By: Emily Lachmann - Grade 5, Pomperaug Elementary School, Southbury**

On October 15, 2010, I walked into the Palace Theater and my jaw dropped at the sight of 2,600 seats waiting to be filled. As I walked over the orchestra pit I could feel the mellow vibration of 65 musicians playing their cellos, violins, and basses. Our guide Karen Streeter, led us to our reserved box seats. Screams filled the air as the Founding Fathers Band came out full of energy singing and dancing. I knew that right when the play started that there wouldn't be a dull moment.

The show We the People began and the audience went wild! The five cast members were full of energy so that made the show incredible. We the People was about a girl named Dawn who was running for class president just so she could have power in the school. The Founding Fathers teach Dawn about the branches of the government and that one person doesn't have all the power. In the end, Dawn learns that school president isn't just for power it is to help make good decisions for the school. Not only was this play enjoyable, but it was educational as well.

Interviewing the actors was a great experience because I learned a lot about acting. For example, when the question was asked, "What is the key to success?" John, one of the Founding Fathers answered by quoting from Walt Disney "It takes talent to be sure, but it take a drive to be the best you can be." In addition to this, all of the actors and actresses on stage were nervous, but because they are professionals, they always pull through their lines and singing.

We the People was a breathtaking performance. All five cast members played their roles very energetically. My favorite part was when they sang about the first five amendments to the Bill of Rights. I liked this part because fast music played that made you want to jump out of your seat. However, the audience was a big part of the show. The cheering, clapping, singing and dancing made the cast have even more energy. Over all, the play was phenomenal.

The play, We the People was outstanding. It was exciting, enthusiastic and educational. I hope to see another play at the Palace Theater soon.

## REVIEW OF "WE THE PEOPLE"

By: Caitlin May - Grade 4 , Salem School, Naugatuck

Lights! Camera! Action! Hi, I'm Caitlin and on October 15, 2010 I saw "We The People" at the Palace Theater in Waterbury with many other student reporters. As I entered the building my eyes grew very wide. It is a beautiful theater with stunning chandeliers. The floor is made of genuine marble and the ceiling is covered with gold leaf, which is gold pressed thin as tissue paper. Our tour guide Karen Streeter told us The Palace was the architectural creation of Thomas Lamb and was opened in 1922.

Soon the lights dimmed and the crowd filled the theater to the brim. I was filled with excitement. The founding fathers came on the stage and were dressed as rock stars. They talked about history and the Constitution, using all kinds of music types including jazz, hip-hop, and country. Sound effects and multi-colored lights were also used to capture the audience's attention. They also used jokes to liven things up.

Subjects such as the three branches of the government- the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial were discussed, and how all three play an important role. They talked about how if a bill is written, it gets sent to the different branches for approval and finally the President, and if he does not like it then it will not become a law. The actors also talked about the importance of the twenty-seven amendments to the Constitution and how important our right to the freedom of speech and the right to vote are.

The performers also used real life situations to capture the audience's attention while teaching about government. One of these situations was where two girls were having a disagreement about which one of them would be the better class president. The lesson learned was that you shouldn't just vote for who is popular, you should vote for the person who truly would be the best in that position.

After the show I was very lucky to be able to meet the actors. I met Lindsey, David Potter, Josh, Peter Gasic, and David Hudson. They all said they were very nervous before the start of the show and that it takes a lot of preparation to put on a show like "We The People."

I would recommend this play to everyone who wants to learn more about our government. There were no dull moments and my eyes were glued on the performance at all times because of how interesting it was. I learned the the founding fathers were not just men in history that had power, but were people that helped make the United States a better place.

## **“WE THE PEOPLE”**

**By: Elizabeth A. Saddiq - Grade 4 , Salem School, Naugatuck**

The Palace Theater in Waterbury, Connecticut, was built between 1920 and 1922, by Thomas Lamb. The theater cost one million dollars to build. The building was fit for a king, but could be used by all. Originally it was designed as a movie house and theater to have skits of all kinds; it is now used for plays and shows. The most interesting part of the Palace’s history is that in 1987 it closed and 18 years later it reopened after renovations, it reclaimed its place in Waterbury as a major destination.

“We the People” is a musical play about the United States government and Constitution. There were 5 characters, four Founding Fathers, Washington, Adams, Franklin, and Jefferson, and also a girl named Dawn. The young girl, Dawn, was running for Student Council President but doesn’t care or understand how government runs. The Founding Fathers teach Dawn why the government and Constitution are very important, because they give us freedom and protect our rights. At the end of the play Dawn understands about government and begins to care, she was able to give her speech from her heart.

After the show I went backstage to meet the performers and ask them questions. I asked the performers if it was hard to memorize their lines, Lindsay who played Dawn told me that it was hard at times and that she had a particular song she had practiced over and over again, even in the shower. Another student asked when they had started acting. Peter, who played a Founding Father, said he used to stand on picnic tables during his father’s baseball games when he was little and perform. All five performers said that they were nervous sometimes on stage and sometimes they forget their lines.

My experience at the Palace Theater was exciting. Because of the Palatial News Journalism Program, I was able to tour the whole building, I got to go downstairs and see all the rooms the performers use even the dressing rooms! I got to sit in the center box seats and watch a fantastic show that taught me about the government. This was the best experience I have ever had; I now have an interest in journalism.

## WE THE PEOPLE

**By: Andrea Egan - Grade 8, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Waterbury**

When I first walked into the Palace Theater I was amazed. I had been there other times but never looked at all the details in the ceiling and on the walls. Going backstage, I think, was my favorite part. We got to see a wall on which most of the shows that have been there drew a picture of their show and wrote their names on the sign. When we came back upstairs into the theater to see the stage we learned a secret about the orchestra pit. They can put a cover over the pit if they need more seats in the theater or they can pull it up.

We headed to our seats and got ready for the show. It was about how everyone can make a difference whether they are young or old. The show taught me more about laws and congress. they made it funny and musical which made me understand it more.

When we went to interview the actors and actresses I was a little nervous. But as it continued I wasn't so nervous about asking questions. The actors were very helpful and made me want to do more interviewing. When the actors were asked how long they have been acting it ranged from 9-10 years to even 4 months. The actors do get nervous but it depends on the crowd. The actors said their biggest support system will always be their parents.

I am very thankful for the opportunity and if I could do it again I would.

## WE THE PEOPLE

**By: Minna Holleck - Grade 5, Pomperaug Elementary School, Southbury**

On October 15, 2010, I entered the grand and attractive Palace Theater. My guide, Karen Streeter, led us through bustling crowds of students waiting for their buses hesitantly. The palace theater is a gigantic building fit for a king. Once everyone attending the Palatial News program arrived, Mrs. Streeter gave us a fantastic tour of the theater. When the "house" opened, we were seated in special box seats. As the Founding Fathers Band appeared on stage, shouts filled the air.

During the entire play, I could tell that the actors, Josh, David, Peter, Lindsay, and John, were very enthusiastic about each individual role. We The People was a great kid-friendly show, and I'm sure the characters have a positive acting environment. The performers cooperated well with the audience, and there was plenty of marvelous singing and dancing.

After the play about our branches of government and Congress, we got to ask the actors a couple of questions. From the interview, I found out that most of the actors have been singing for at least 5 years. I also discovered that every actor has been acting from 3-16 years, whether it is professional time or not. In addition to that, I also found that Peter was the only actor in the play whose parents were supportive from the start, and it didn't take them time to figure out that he was serious about acting. The rest of the cast members' parents weren't supportive in the beginning, but soon realized it was no joke that their children wanted to act. For example, Josh went all the way over to Scotland to prove that he was serious about acting. This information was interesting to me because I thought all actors' parents were okay with their children acting in the first place.

My particular question asked was, "What do you think is the key to success?" John answered with a quote from Walt Disney, "It takes talent to be sure, but it takes a drive to succeed." Basically, John was saying that it takes talent, but more importantly, you need to have commitment, or the drive to be able to meet your goals. Lindsay, David, and Josh all agreed with John, but Peter had a different idea for the key to success. Peter said that if you think there is something else you think you can do then do it. This meant to follow and pursue your dreams, and you will prevail. I learned that each and every actor is happy and at the same time nervous on stage, but they still say their lines with great emotion. We The People was really a grand performance.

I really enjoyed watching the actors in We The People. I think this play was perfect for the beautiful and magnificent Palace Theater. I can't wait until I get to see another show at The Palace.