

RIDGE DRAMA BOOSTERS NEWSLETTER



TROUPE 7742

Term: Fall | Issue 3 | Date: November 6, 2019

KEY DATES

- Nov.7-9: TECH WEEK**
- Nov.11-13 TECH WEEK cont'd**
- Nov.14: OPEN DRESS**
- Nov.15-16: *Midsummer!***
- Nov.17:** Strike and Party
- Nov.18:** Production team apps due
- Nov.19:** Production team announced
- Nov. 21-22:** Auditions for *Guys and Dolls*
- Nov.25:** Callbacks
- Nov. 26:** Cast List Posted
- Dec.7-8: NJ THESPIAN FESTIVAL**
- Dec.10:** Last day to join crew for musical
- Dec. 16: FORMS and PAYMENTS DUE!**



RIDGE DRAMA CLUB

AN INSIDE LOOK AT SET DESIGN



Award-winning Set Designer Jason Stewart is once again taking our crew members to the next level of theatre artistry. This year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is calling on the students to create a world of fantasy and beauty within the confines of the Ridge stage.

"This show has one of the more complex constructions we've ever done, despite it appearing fairly simple," said Stewart. "The large, 28 ft. by 12 ft. raked stage, with a semi-circle cut out of it, is a massive architectural undertaking for high school age students to construct. It took a lot of precision and planning to accomplish."

The artistic talent needed for this production will call on our crew students to possibly go beyond their comfort level. "Artistically, I think most high school students think rather literal with their artwork. I am asking students to resist the urge to make something look "real" and, instead, accept the pared-down version of the things we make."

Stewart hopes the audience sees the value of the organic approach in the fall production. "With *A Midsummer Night's Dream* I wanted to expose the artifice and allow the materials that we use to construct trees and masks to be seen, not hidden. Not only does this show the audience the process, but it allows the audience to use their own imaginations to complete the picture – making them a more active participant in the creative process."

Tickets are now on sale at www.ridgepac.com.

TEACHER TIDBITS WITH MR. STEWART



Q: If you won the lottery and decided to give up teaching, what would you do instead?

A: I would focus full-time on my artwork, making paintings and designing sculptural installations.

Q: What makes a 'good day' at school?

A: Any day where I get to share my passions of art and design with students who also have a passion for those things is a great day. I especially enjoy when a student realizes or ignites a passion that may not have been there previously.

Q: What are your "trapped on a desert island" books or movies?

A: Books: *Infinite Jest* by David Foster Wallace, *Poetics of Space* by Gaston Bachelard and *The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon. Movies: *Delicatessen*, *The Back to the Future Trilogy*, *The Triplets of Belleville*, *Hook* and *Bob's Burgers* collection.

Q: Which other teacher's class would you like to enroll, even for a day?

A: Mrs. Retzko's A Capella Choir or Music Theory (not sure if she teaches that), Mr. Richard's Advanced Woodworking, Mrs. Harvey's Theater I or II and Mr. Ortega's Photography Classes.

Q: If you could grow up in any decade, which would you choose and why?

A: 1920s or late 1960s – I've always had an appreciation for the design styles of the 20s and I think any decade defined by counter culture groups like the flappers and hippies is a great example of the power of free thought.

Q: What are your must-have smartphone apps?

A: Instagram, Yelp, Spotify, and Shazam.

Q: Any other fast fact you'd like people to know?

A: I've written more than 100 original songs and I've never lost a tug-o-war (having worked at a summer camp, I've participated in many).



[CLICK HERE](#) to buy your tickets for
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Nov. 15-16th at 7pm.

SUCCESS AT THE CAR WASH!



THANK YOU to all who came to support the car wash on Oct. 12th. The drama club raised roughly **\$2600!** This money is placed right back into the club to pay for a variety of needs that will continue to improve the drama program.