

Tab 1

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Student One Acts-A Rollercoaster of Emotions

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On October 24th, 2025, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School hosted the second round of public performances of their traditional One Act plays. The plays consisted of *Seussical Jr.*, the middle school show, and *Women And War*, the emotional high school show.

The evening began with *Seussical Jr.*, a play in which various eccentric Dr. Seuss characters are brought together to create a musical and expressive plot. DFA's performance of the play, directed by Jamie Sidener, won first place in the middle school GTC competition. It was not only structurally entertaining, but visually as well. Color symbolism was incorporated into the background, with the projection board shining blue during sullen scenes, yellow during happier ones, orange during heartfelt moments, etc. The creativity of the background was further developed with the Dr. Seuss helper characters, "the Things," redirecting the props and backgrounds. Through this, the setting was constantly being changed without anything feeling out of place.

The audience's focal point was, of course, the young actors that harnessed large talents. They sang with powerful, harmonious voices and acted with skill beyond their age. DFA junior Luis Houser [?] expressed his admiration of the cast of *Seussical Jr.* and their talents, saying, "I found it very fun. The energy was definitely there, especially for young actors." One central theme was repeated throughout the entire show- "a person's a person no matter how small." Every character, no matter the role, had a significant part in the show, contributing to the enjoyment of the sequence as a whole.



For the second part of the evening, the mood shifted significantly. Highschoolers assembled to put together a production of *Women and War*, which was directed by Ms. Brune. The show placed first in regional competitions, likely due to the sophistication and remarkability of the play. The play features various narrators trying to cope through the horrors of various wars, using rhetorical appeals to enlighten audiences on the pain, fear, and loss that were bestowed upon not only the soldiers, but the wives, daughters, and mothers of the fighters. The actors featured in this performance delivered emotional, cultivated performances that tugged on the heartstrings of those watching. One scene featured the women dancing, smiling, and laughing before a blaring alarm went off and forced them to return to their reality. That is largely what the play is—a harsh cast into the dark reality of days of war. When asked what he thought about *Women and War*, DFA senior Hank Frost stated “It was good. It was definitely a different tone from the first one—it was more serious. I think they did really well acting, and the music was also really good.”



Overall, the audience support was quite enthusiastic for both of these plays. When the cast arrived on stage and took their bows, the audience roared with support and appreciation, showing their enjoyment of these productions. The contributors to these shows should feel pride in their success, their devotion, and their strength, as their hard work and passion have led to admirable accomplishments. Be sure to check the Davidson Fine Arts website for news of future productions hosted by the theater department, because everybody deserves the chance to enjoy DFA’s creative expression through the arts.

Image Credits

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