

Note from the Directors

Good evening, and thank you for joining us this evening for our production of *Dear Mr. President* sponsored by the Eastside Food Coop.

This has been a rehearsal process unlike any other, beginning with a director's realization 3AM on November 9, 2016 that it might not be the right time to produce *Othello* (as had been in our original plans) and that instead it was time for our students to look inward and create a piece that told our own stories.

What has followed since has been a wonderful coming together of many people from all over the school:

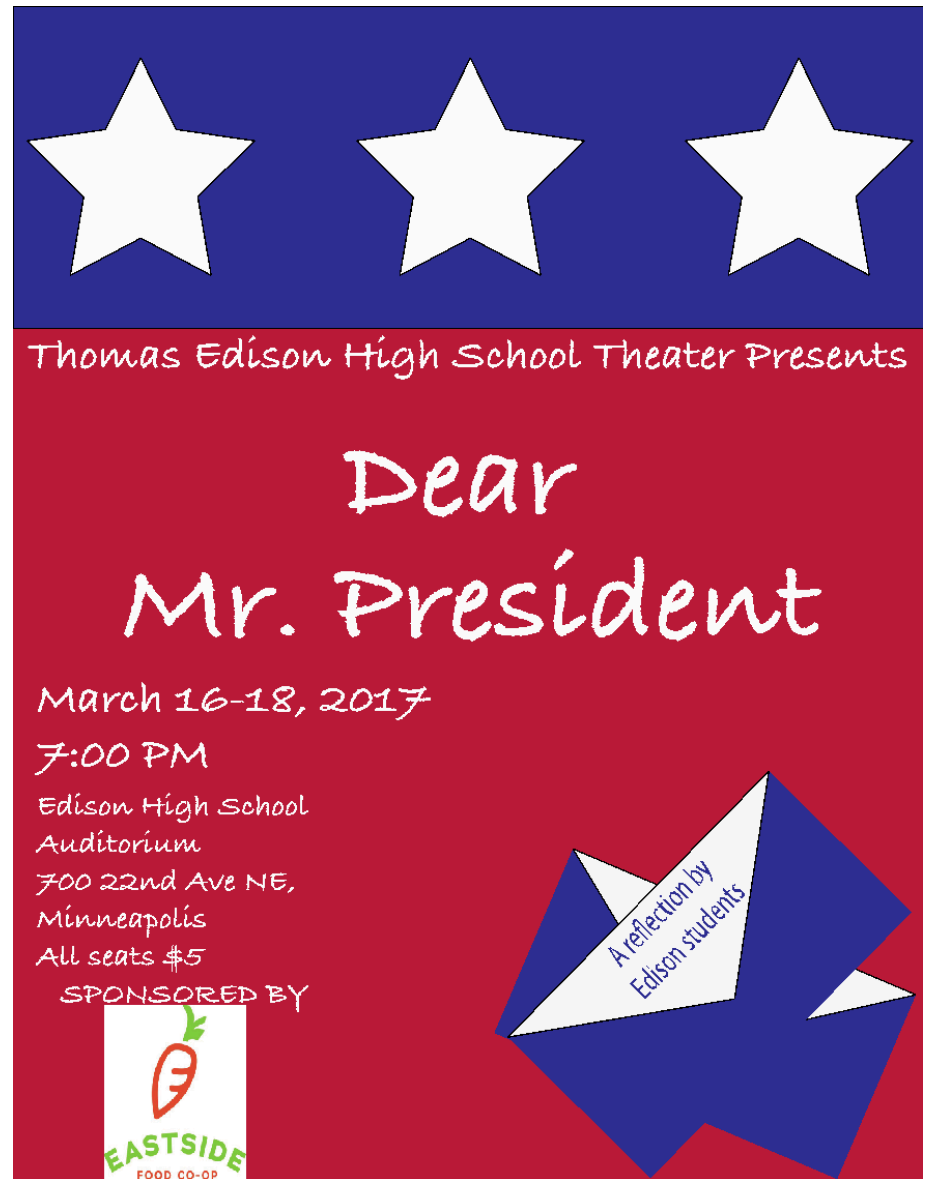
- Students - inside and outside of the cast and crew - digging deep within themselves to write stories that we could help retell,
- Teachers facilitating writing activities to provide us with source material, including written work but also visual art such as the student photography and media art that you saw on your way into the theater before the show
- A principal, Eryn Warne, who celebrates our diverse community and looks for every opportunity to amplify student voices,
- A Technical Director, Karl Reinhard, who has exceeded his own standard for patience as the cast (and its directors) have continued to change our minds about the technical needs of this play,
- Supportive teaching artists from around the Twin Cities, especially two of our closest partners, Theo Langason from the Guthrie Education Network and regular TEHS Theater director Dudley Voigt, who have helped us make something out of nothing,
- A wonderful student leadership presence, starting with Alejandro Eduarte who has served every day as Assistant Director and Stage Manager, providing us with steady-handed leadership and a creative sensibility.

The students you see on the stage tonight are everything you think they'd be from watching this play: Determined, curious, creative, industrious, and generous beyond all measure. It's been a pleasure to guide them as they use this play to introduce themselves to you tonight.

Student leadership remains at the center of our identity as we finish the year in May with our first ever fully-produced senior-directed project, Neil Simon's *Rumors* directed by Elie Nederloe. We hope you will join us!

Enjoy the show tonight!

Raederle Sterling and Max Athorn, Directors



Thomas Edison High School Theater Presents

Dear Mr. President

March 16-18, 2017
7:00 PM
Edison High School
Auditorium
700 22nd Ave NE,
Minneapolis
All seats \$5
SPONSORED BY



A reflection by Edison students

Dear Mr. President Production Staff

Co-Directors	Max Athorn* and Raederle Sterling*
Technical Director	Karl Reinhard*
Asst. Director/Stage Manager	Alejandro Eduarte
Costume Designers	Freya Hatch-Surisook, Gaia Rachwal
Makeup Crew	Alex Hall
Lighting Designer/Operator	Christian Redbear
Sound Designer/Operator	Andrew Gross
Tech Crew	Kyle Lone, Sasha Shurkin, Victoria Inaguma
Video	Halay Yang
Publicity Coordinator	Connor Arneson
Art Design	Connor Arneson
Program Layout	Karl Reinhard*

Dear Mr. President Ensemble

Anisa Ali, Connor Arneson, Solveig Bremer, Erick Carbente-Lopez,
Eleanor Craig, Amy Dischinger, Ireony Farmer, Damari Jordan-Onchiri,
Djinn Kabeya, Cecilia Lazarchic, Elie Nederloe, Hodan Osman,
Sharon Record, James Sanders, Ben Schneider, Jack Worley

Dear Mr. President Authors

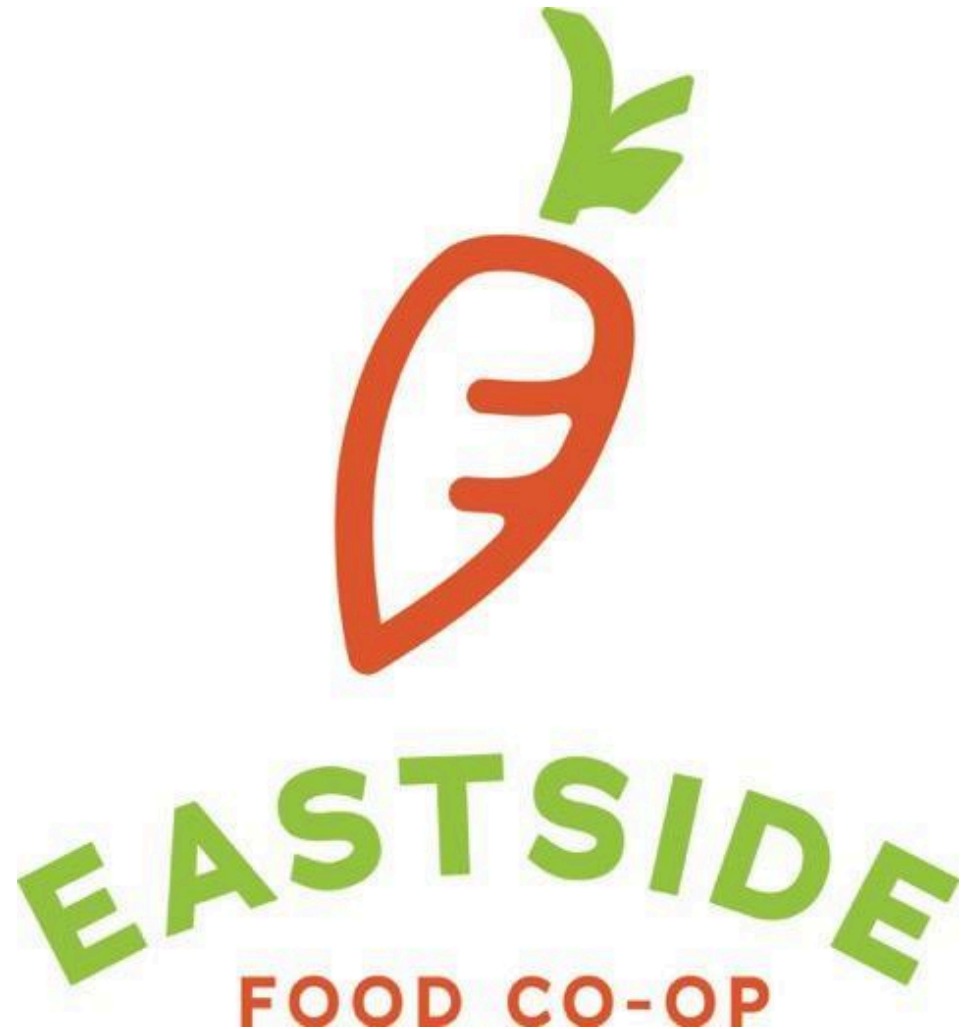
Dear Mr. President was written by students from across Edison High School.
Extended portions of this script were written by Connor Arneson, Rosario
Bustamante, Mykenzie Cole, Eleanor Craig, Ireony Farmer, Damari
Jordan-Onchiri, Elie Nederloe, Hodan Osman, Sharon Record, Erick
Tankamash Carchi, Brittania Wykes, and Anonymous.
Countless other students wrote words and created visual art that were used as
inspiration for these scenes, speeches, and poems.

Thomas Edison High School Theater Leadership Council

Artistic Director	Max Athorn*
Technical Director	Karl Reinhard*
Connor Arneson, Alejandro Eduarte	
Zella Fluegel-Murray, Victoria Inamagua	
Brittany King, Rowan Kuhnle	
John Moore, Elie Nederloe	
Asia Timberlake	
(*Thomas Edison High School Faculty)	

2

THANK YOU to our generous sponsor for the entire 2016-17 season!





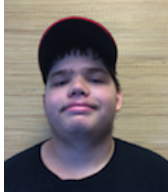
Victoria Inamagua (Tech Crew)

10th Grade

Past TEHS Theater Productions

Tech Crew: *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, In the Room Where It Happens, Our Town*

As Actor: *The Wiz* (Ensemble)

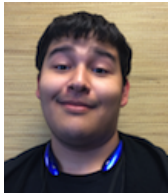


Kyle Lone (Tech Crew)

12th Grade

Past TEHS Theater Productions

Tech Crew: *The Wiz, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, In the Room Where It Happens, Our Town, What is Beyond, Twelfth Night, Working, Rising Sun Rising Moon, The Mousetrap, The Music Man*



Christian Redbear (Lights)

10th Grade

Past TEHS Theater Productions

Tech Crew: *The Wiz*



Sasha Shurkin (Tech Crew)

11th Grade

Past TEHS Theater Productions

Tech Crew: *The Wiz, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, In the Room Where It Happens, Our Town, Twelfth Night, Working*

As Actor: *What is Beyond* (Ensemble)



Halay Yang (Tech Crew)

11th Grade

Past TEHS Theater Productions

Tech Crew: *The Wiz, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, In the Room Where It Happens, Our Town, What is Beyond, Twelfth Night, Working*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The TEHS Theater community would like to acknowledge recent gifts of materials made to our theater:

Marlan "Tiny" Proctor III for his donation of building materials. You can learn more about Tiny at his website: TinyProctor.com

Bill Dickman for his donation of thirty wall units.

Dave Phillips for his donation of lights.

SPECIAL THANKS TO....

Eryn Warne, Principal and the TEHS Administration

Eastside Food Coop

Friends of Thomas Edison High School Theater

Thomas Edison High School Fine Arts Legacy Fund

Thomas Edison High School Engineers

The Morris Park Players

Pamela Vertina

Theo Langason, Jason Brown; The Guthrie Theater

Dudley Voigt

Stacey Athorn

Unique Thrift Store, Discount 70, Savers

Families of the Cast (and adult staff!) for your patience and accommodation

Our Student Authors and Collaborators

UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS AT THOMAS EDISON:

Quarter 3 Choir Concert

March 21, 2017 at 7PM

Presented by Thomas Edison High School Fine Arts Dept.

NE Minneapolis Band Festival

March 23, 2017 at 7PM

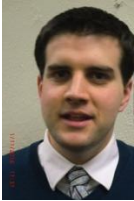
Presented by Thomas Edison High School Fine Arts Dept.

Rumors by Neil Simon

May 18-20, 2017 at 7PM

Presented by Thomas Edison High School Theater

3



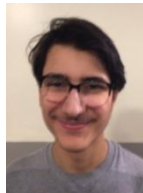
Max Athorn (Co-Director)
Faculty, Thomas Edison High School
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Director: *Our Town*, *Twelfth Night*,
Working, *Rising Sun* *Rising Moon*, *The*
Mousetrap, *The Music Man*, *Little Shop of*
Horrors, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Charlotte's Web*,
Antigone, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Footloose!*,
Don't Drink the Water
 As Artistic Director: 7th Season



Raederle Sterling (Co-Director)
Faculty, Thomas Edison High School
TEHS Theater Debut
Other Theater
 As Director: Goodhue High School, Columbia
 Heights High School



Karl Reinhard (Technical Director)
Faculty Emeritus, Thomas Edison High
School
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Technical Director: 8th Season – See all
 the Posters in the back of the Auditorium



Alejandro Eduarte (Asst. Director/Stage
 Manager)
10th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Actor: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*
 (Snoopy), As Technician: *The Wiz* (Sound
 Designer, Operator)
Other Theater
 Project SUCCESS: *And So I Did*; Intermedia
 Arts: #sayhername, Penumbra Theatre
 Summer Institute (2014-15)

4



Sharon Record (Ensemble)
11th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Dorothy), *Twelfth Night* (Officer),
Working (Ensemble)



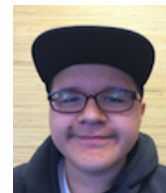
James Sanders (Ensemble)
9th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Ensemble)



Ben Schneider (Ensemble)
9th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Ensemble)



Jack Worley (Ensemble)
10th Grade
TEHS Theater Debut



Andrew Gross (Sound)
9th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Sound)



Cecilia Lazarchic (Ensemble)
9th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Ensemble)
Other Theater

Northeast Middle School: *Shrek* (Fiona), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lefou), *Shining Princess of the Slender Bamboo*, (Suitor's Apprentice), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble), *Circus Olympus* (Hermes)



Elie Nederloe (Ensemble)
12th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions

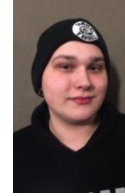
As Actor: *Our Town* (Rebecca Gibbs), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Little Redheaded Girl), *Working* (Ensemble), *Rising Sun Rising Moon* (Ensemble), *Music Man* (Zaneeta Shinn)
 As Costume Designer: *The Wiz*, *In The Room Where It Happens*, *Our Town*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *What Is Beyond*, *Twelfth Night*, *Working*.

As Artistic Staff: *The Wiz* (Asst. Director/Stage Manager),

Upcoming: *Rumors* (Director) – May 2017. First ever TEHS Theater Senior Project



Hodan Osman (Ensemble)
12th Grade
TEHS Theater Debut



Alex Hall (Makeup)
12th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Makeup Designer: *The Wiz*



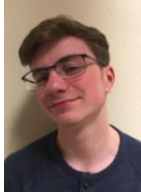
Freya Hatch-Surisook (Costume Co-Designer)
10th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Actor: *The Wiz* (Glinda), *Our Town* (Howie Newsome), *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Lucy)



Gaia Kruger (Costume Co-Designer)
11th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Costume Designer: *The Wiz* As Costume Crew: *In the Room Where It Happens*, *Our Town*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*.



Anisa Ali (Ensemble)
12th Grade
TEHS Theater Debut



Connor Arneson (Ensemble)
10th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Lion), *In the Room Where It Happens* (Ensemble), *Our Town* (George Gibbs), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Pig Pen)
Other Theater
 Northeast Middle School: *Beauty and the Beast* (Gaston), *Shining Princess of the Slender Bamboo* (Larry), *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow), *Circus Olympus* (Hades), *Peter Pan* (Ensemble), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theseus)



Solveig Bremer (Ensemble)
9th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Ensemble)
Other Theater
 Marcy Open: *Pippin*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*



Erick Carbente-Lopez (Ensemble)
12th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
 As Actor: *The Wiz* (Ensemble), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Rerun), *What Is Beyond* (Ensemble), *Working* (Ensemble)
 As Artistic Staff: *Our Town* (Asst. Director)



Eleanor Craig (Ensemble)
9th Grade
TEHS Theater Debut
Other Theater
 Northeast Middle School: *The Wizard of Oz* (Auntie Em)



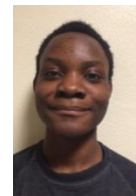
Amy Dischinger (Ensemble)
9th Grade
TEHS Theater Debut



Ireony Farmer (Ensemble)
11th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Scarecrow)



Damari Jordan-Onchiri (Ensemble)
11th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Henrietta/Evillien)



Djinn Kabeya (Ensemble)
9th Grade
Past TEHS Theater Productions
The Wiz (Ensemble)