

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

THE MUSICAL THEATRE & ACTORS STUDIO



Director's Notes

Often, I'll make mention of how "quickly time flies" or "how I can't believe it's already" fill-in-the-blank-here. But, boy, has January felt long! In fact, I keep seeing funny memes about the same thing popping-up on my social media accounts. So...either a lot of people feel similar, or those odd algorithms are working. But, while this lengthy first month of the new year has certainly stretched on, it's been filled with a great deal of fun and laughter, both inside the classroom and in the rehearsal studio.

And with that, comes the sixth issue of *The Directors Cut*...a special *Cry-Baby: The Musical* edition.

It has been such a joy spending the last six weeks with the 40+ students that make-up the cast and crew of this show. They are passionate, talented, and incredibly hardworking. A general high school musical schedule typically runs about 12 weeks or longer. Here at the Academy, we produce our productions in just six weeks. Add in some pesky snow days...even less!

I hope you will find time to come to the show to celebrate the efforts put in by so many students, parents, industry professionals, and devoted volunteers and community members. It's been an awesome ride!

Thank you for the memories. I hope this has been an experience you'll carry with you for years to come.

Break-a-leg!

Erich DiCenzo

DIRECTOR OF THE MUSICAL THEATRE & ACTORS STUDIO

IT'S SHOWTIME!



FEBRUARY 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10 @ 7:00p
FEBRUARY 4 & 10 @ 2:00p

This year, to assist with the rehearsal process and successful run of the production, Ensemble Captains and Dance Captains were assigned. The following student leaders were responsible not only for maintaining the integrity of the show, but instilling kindness and community. They were chosen for these roles based on their experience, talent, and leadership skills.

"Working on Crybaby has been a blast! From amazing sets to soaring vocals, this high energy production is going to blow your mind. It's been a great experience working with such a talented and professional group of people and I continue to learn and grow from them every day. This production is a result of hours of hard work across the board, much of which happens behind the scenes. As a cast, we would like to especially thank Bobby for his stellar work with the pit, all of our tech teams led terrifically by Raymond, the many parent volunteers, and of course, Mr. D. Personally, I also want to shout out Kate, Zoey and Libby for their enthusiasm and dedication as our awesome ensemble leadership team!"

John Poncy, Assistant Choreographer/Co-Dance Captain

"Being a part of the Academy musical this year has been such a new experience, especially with the responsibility of being an ensemble captain. One unexpected aspect to this is assisting with social media! I have loved collaborating with the cast and with Mr. D to craft publicity for this show, and stoking the fires as we quickly approach opening! Juggling fun things like Gift-Buddies and filming tick tocks, with the business knowing formations and tracks has been an amazing learning experience, and I have had fun every step of the way- mostly, due to the incredible cast and crew all supporting each other. I could not be more grateful that this group of kind, talented, and hardworking people have been here to do everything from eagerly volunteering for the next "guess who" video, to putting up with me and Zoey running a dance over and over and over. We are all such a team, and it makes this process so fun and rewarding. [Love ya, Squares!]"

Kate Townsend, Square Ensemble Captain

...Continuing With Our Captains...

“Part of what makes the academy so awesome (and probably my favorite thing) is the community that exists, and Crybaby is no different. As an ensemble captain part of my job is to help create that community within the cast and make sure everyone feels included, but my job in that regard has been quite easy because it’s just built in with a cast like this - and by the way, all the things you’ve heard about this cast are true. They’re incredibly talented. But even more than that they are kind and friendly and always ready to learn. They’ve always shown me respect as a leader even though I’m also their peers, and I am so grateful for it.”

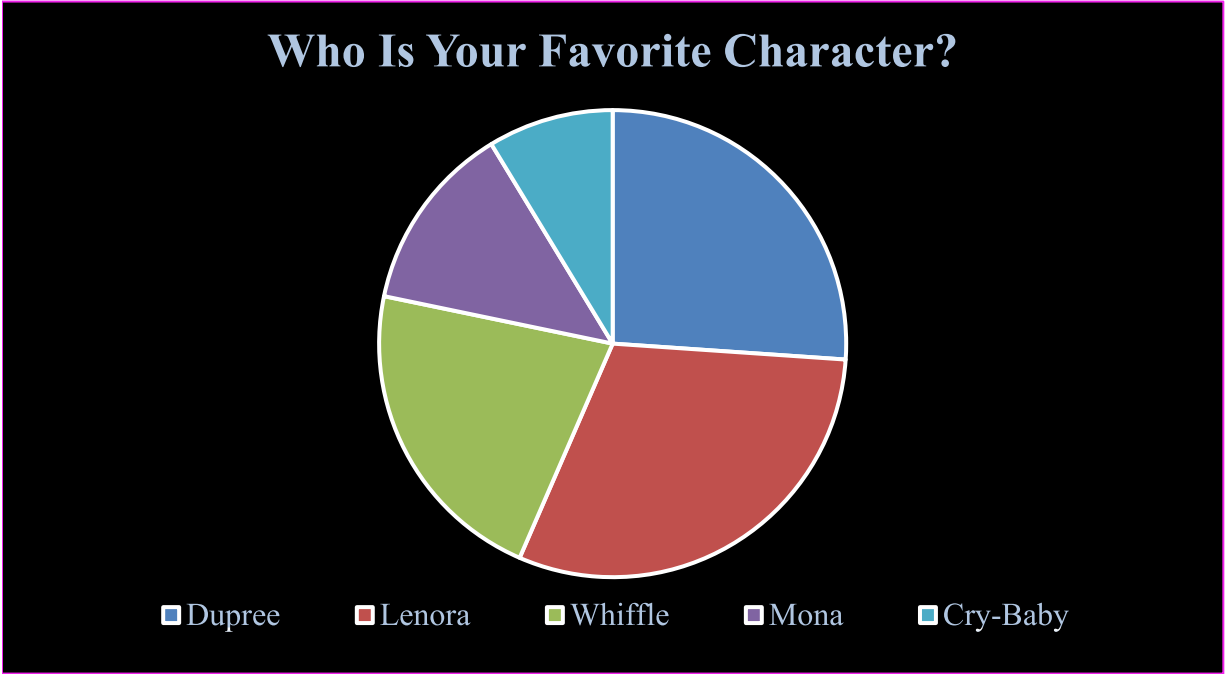
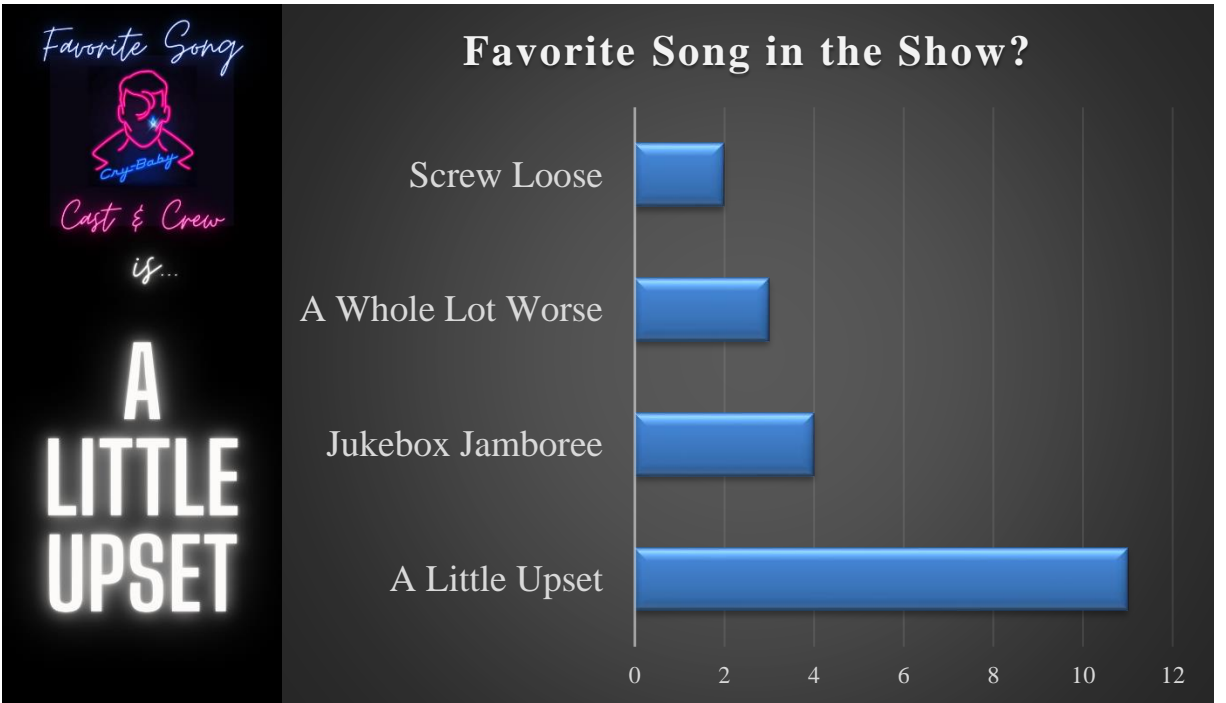
Zoey Miller, Drapes Ensemble Captain

“Cry-Baby has been such an exciting experience! I have loved working with this whole cast and feel so grateful for the opportunity to be co-dance captains with the amazing John Poncy! His and Mr. D’s choreography is so much fun to learn and perform, some of my very favorite choreographers. The community of the Academy is so amazing, I was actually a little terrified at the thought of being co-captain with John and to all these crazy talented people, but everyone has been so inviting and really made this show so fun.”

Libby Hansen, Co-Dance Captain

CAST CENSUS

We polled some of the cast during our long nights at dress rehearsal about some of their favorite components of the show. We cannot wait to hear which are yours after you visit us in Baltimore 1954!



MTAS VISITS

Welcoming prospective students into the Musical Theatre and Actors Studio to experience, first-hand, what a day in the life of an MTAS Academy student is like is one of the best sources of publicity we offer. And since there is no stronger outreach than word of mouth, I ask for you help spread the word about this exciting opportunity.

On select Wednesdays and Thursdays in February, prospective students may choose to visit any AM, MID-Day, or PM Block during their school day. Shuttles will be provided. To set-up their visit, students must visit their base school counselors.

Current students and families are encouraged to reach out to friends who may be interested in [or better yet, may not even know about] the Musical Theatre & Actor’s Studio.

Available Dates to Visit MTAS:

- Wednesday, February 7th
- Thursday, February 8th

Students who visit on the 7th or 8th will receive free tickets to see Cry-Baby: the Musical!

- Wednesday, February 14th
- Thursday, February 15th
- Wednesday, February 28th
- Thursday, February 29th

A LOOK AHEAD

Friday, February 2nd

Cry-Baby: the Musical
Opening Night @ 7pm

Tuesday, February 6th

Academy Open House
6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, February 10th

Cry-Baby: the Musical
Closing Night @ 7pm

Thursday, February 19th

NO SCHOOL
President’s Day

Thursday, February 22nd

Signature Workshops
In-Class

Friday, February 23rd

Signature Workshops
In-Class