

Some Facts about MBCI Musicals

- MBCI has produced 25 musicals in its 71-year history. Over time, we have settled into a pattern of mounting a major production every second year, generally selling out each of four nights for a total of 2,400 audience members.
- MBCI's last five musicals - *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Sound of Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wiz*, and *The Pirates of Penzance* - have received *Rainbow Stage High School Musical Awards*, annually given to 2-3 Manitoba school productions. This is an incredible and unprecedented achievement, made all the more fantastic by the fact that everyone involved is doing so almost always completely on their own time outside of class!
- Our musicals are truly "school productions", involving a tremendous number of students, teachers, and alumni of all ages and disciplines working together toward a common goal. No other activity comes close to bringing together as much of our school community's expertise and contributions in so many areas simultaneously - music, drama, dance, construction, art, costumes, makeup, technology, and publicity. It is by far the largest cooperative project MBCI mounts on a regular basis, and draws the largest audience.
- After the conclusion of MBCI's most recent and 25th show, *Beauty and the Beast*, more than 1,900 people have contributed to these musicals, each one taking part in an average of three productions.
- Most of these individuals have been students or alumni, representing over one quarter of our entire alumni, even including those who attended MBCI in the two plus decades before our first musical. Many of those alumni will have volunteered as parents of students.
- For many graduating students who take part in a musical as members of the cast, pit orchestra, or behind-the-scenes production crews, they will recount those experiences as being a highlight of their time at MBCI.
- MBCI's first production was in 1968 - *Barbarina*, an operetta adaptation of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*.
- The first Broadway musical MBCI mounted was *Fiddler on the Roof*, in 1981. We have presented *Fiddler* three times: 1981, 1995, and most recently in 2011.
- MBCI has performed four other musicals more than once - *Papageno*, an adaptation of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Mikado*, and *The Sound of Music*.
- MBCI has performed five different Gilbert and Sullivan operettas - *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Trial By Jury*, *The Mikado* (twice), *The Gondoliers*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*.
- *Beauty and the Beast* represents our first foray into the world of Disney. It's quite something to work on a show where almost every student involved will have grown up knowing the songs and words from memory due to the 1991 hit animated movie.
- Our next musical is scheduled for April, 2017. We will announce which show it is in June, 2016!