

Final Arts House Letter

ARTS HOUSE

FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2016

It was late. It was late as the curtain came down close to 10:00 PM. Was it too late? Hell no! T-D has one school happening that takes three hours or so and it's an official OMG. It must have seemed late as one third of the audience left early; some right after their child was on stage. Others waited until right after intermission and missed a very chic fashion show and the last four acts. How gauche!

To those who orchestrated the Arts House, the last one of each school year is T-D's finest evening and time takes on another dimension when it comes to kids and those who help them become bigger than life.

For Alan Goodman the last Arts House in June is like game seven of the World Series. For Almira Bubesi the Fashion Show and walking on an imaginary red carpet is the first step in securing a Palme D'or.

How could you have too many kids on stage? Imagine that, the smallest K – 12 school in New York State putting too many kids on the stage? Isn't this the State that leaves no child behind? Not one act should have been removed or replaced. Each was just that good.

The beauty of T-D was seen on that stage which, at times, was too small for T-D. Imagine that? A stage too small for T-D? OMG!! This Arts House had many variety acts and a few that required as much planning as an Apollo moon shot. Maybe, too uber! The spotlight wasn't quite big enough to focus on everyone on stage, but T-D always tries to illuminate so many of its emerging stars.

Sinatra got us to dress differently. Some could have made a GQ or Vanity Fair cover. A few others kind of forgot how important it is to dress up for the stage. No matter what, kids from 6 – 18 adorned the stage with clothes that went from petite to fully grown.

As emcee Ben Rufa has no trouble being handsome and he almost sounded as good as he looks. Josh Nadorf dressed as smart as his hair cut was sharp. Femi Copeland, who customarily steals our hearts with her voice and song, was our most daring performer. She looked like a Planet Fitness graduate and she pranced, danced, and oscillated to The Lost Boys. This time the hearts stolen were full of joy and elation. Two boys who weren't lost were Greg Livingstone and Leo Murzin. Both were dressed to the nines in matching tuxedos as they played their guitars wooing a most attractive, beautifully adorned, and extremely talented Renee Reyes. Grace Kretzmer could have been an opening act for Sinatra. Her presence on the stage creates an Elmer's Glue-like moment for me. She goes in and out of worlds like Jules Verne and gets the audience to leave their worlds at the same time. Jessyca Silva looked ready for the Copa. The hair, the boots, and the slacks put some glitz in the Ritz and her voice and her range made many of us think she's ready for a more serious gig. There's only one word for Dexter Doris-brilliant. His violin spoke to all of us.

As abbreviated as the Digital Music presentation was, everyone in the audience left in wonder and in awe. T-D has been teaching Digital Music for close to a decade and there are graduated seniors who earn much more than a good living wage producing and directing music in a digital format.

So many of the Arts House performers sang in Spanish – America's second language. Clearly Oye Como Va was a most fitting finale and everyone on the stage had a favorite family member or good friend in the audience ready to offer a handshake or a well deserved kiss. How sweet it was!

The Fashion Show was too good to have been squeezed in with each model walking one minute on the

red carpet, clearly not enough time to appreciate a full year's work. The slide show featured T-D's fashion designers and their classroom work beforehand became way too obvious. Helping every female model with the two steps before rising to the stage made each young man and male model look like an ideal gentleman and serious prom date.

All in all it was a night full of stars and aspiration. I'm not sure any T-D happening can surpass the elation and joy felt by the two thirds of the audience that happily persevered.

Thanks kids for the three hours of feeling good and thanks to all those who stayed throughout realizing one couldn't get enough of the good time stuff. For T-D the Arts House is the best of times.....and the beat goes on.....

Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.

Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.
Headmaster