

December 7, 2015

A FAB FRIDAY FRANKLY SPEAKING

By Doug Fleming

Sometimes it just takes an Arts House Café to put the pieces together in a world that has so many of us puzzled. Simply said, Friday night's performance held at the New Rochelle Public Library was like medication. No event either close by or far from the Queen City of the Sound (New Rochelle) could upstage the warm feelings, good will, and assurance that only youth can seemingly provide. The future looked pretty good to me as I sat so comfortably in the last row of the theatre. The T-D family was captivated as students from ages 8 - 18 magnetized those in the audience and the adulation that was given became vital.

I felt real good thanking a few of T-D's finest at the end of the performance. Normally the audience exhibits restlessness and spectators look for the exits as I begin to laud T-D's student entertainers. This time around the audience sat so still and no one got up to leave. Everyone just wanted to relax and bask in the radiance of the stars on stage. Frankly speaking, it seemed like the audience was settled in and everyone just wanted to savor the moment. The calmness of the T-D family cooled the heat that makes its way all too often to our television screens and newspaper headlines. It's so good to forget the breaking news.

In my "thank yous" I forgot to single out Nikki D'Annunzio for her art work and creating the program printed in blue as a Sinatra tribute. I also should have saluted Hudson Ardizzone-West for his brilliant emcee work and ad-libs that were perfect for every imperfect moment.

I also should have praised Benoit Van Lesberghe who was "dressed to the nines" thanks to his bride. His "Fly Me to the Moon" sung half in English and half in French touched everyone, and I'm sure no one thought that Paris was burning.

As I left gazing at a Turkish moon, I knew the Arts House wasn't just one of those things or, frankly speaking, too marvelous for words. In the December of my life the Arts House Café convinced me that the best is yet to come.

Thank you Frank Sinatra and "Happy Birthday" wherever you are. The lyrics of your songs are all the folks from Hoboken to Hollywood need to know.