

Ellenville Performing Arts Academy's NYC Adventure

by Roger Haener, *Music Teacher,*
Ellenville Central School

The *Ellenville High School Performing Arts Academy* students went on an overnight trip to the "Big Apple" February 11th, where they attended an evening performance of *Phantom of the Opera*. Theater arts students Richelle Blauvelt and Duane Smith agreed it was "an excellent show." The students were accompanied by some of their teachers: Mr. Oehme, Mr. Haener, Mrs. Worden, and Mrs. Gillette.



The following day, February 12th, the students attended workshops with professional actors and musicians from Broadway shows. In the workshop, the students were given cold reading audition pieces – short monologues to review briefly and then perform as they would in an audition for a show. The workshop host would then give comments and seek feedback from the performing students, as well as those observing. Suggestions were made for improvement and commendable items were pointed out.

The instrumental and vocal students traveled to the Chelsea Studios. There, instrumental students George Hammel and Edward Hubbert performed and were critiqued by the Broadway musician workshop host. George stated, "It was a very positive learning experience." Trumpeter Lauren Schuyler thought the experience "very enlightening." The students who performed received feedback as to the emotion in their playing, how to bring the music to life, and basic musicianship.

For the vocal workshop, the students were to have a prepared solo from a Broadway show. Several



got to perform their pieces, and were coached on their character while performing and bringing out the dramatic aspects of the music.

Students attending the trip included: Katie Avery, Mara Phalen, Brittney Green, Meredith Mirrer, Victoria Cohen, Duane Smith, Sarita Bernstein, Richelle Blauvelt, Amanda Zweck, Andrew Rogers, Katie Stoeckeler, Celia Barry, Jose Valdez, Megan Osterhoudt, Lauren Schuyler, George Hammel, Jennifer Gillette, Courtney Blauvelt, Kayleigh Crawford, Jonathan Vargas, Harshal Patel, Amanda Kaplan, Kristen Vogelaar, Danae O'Bryan, Megan Ballantine, and Edward Hubbert.

The students also toured NYC, going to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, the NBC Experience Store, the Toys R Us Superstore in Times Square, Planet Hollywood, and the NBC's *Today Show*. All agreed that working with the professionals and experiencing the city first hand made it a true adventure. For more information, call the *Ellenville High School* at 845-647-0123, or visit the district website at: www.ecs.k12.ny.us



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