RUPERT A. NOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSICAL THEATER DEPARTMENT 2016 - 2017

Dear Nock Community,

It is with great excitement that we announce auditions for this year's Musical Theater production of the hilarious 1952 movie Musical comedy *Singin' In the Rain Jr.*

With music and lyrics by the Award-Winning team of Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Herb Nacio Brown and Arthur Freed this mile-a-minute story depicts the hilariously futile struggle of silent films in the late 1920's to remain relevant as sound and talking films boomed in popularity. Along with an incredible cast of characters (various Ensemble, featured Dancers, and hilarious slapstick bits) famed actors Don Lockwood & Lina Lamont, their hysterical jokester friend Cosmo Brown, a frazzled Director, and a clueless Studio Owner navigate keeping their Film Studio alive amidst the changing industry.

Adapted from the 1952 MGM Musical film, the show features a beautiful score and countless timeless songs: Fit As a Fiddle, Moses Supposes, Good Mornin', and the absolutely classic title song. The show also provides endless opportunity for a boisterous display of "slapstick comedy". Originated and popularized by early 1900s acts such as Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy, then further developed by the likes of the Three Stooges and Lucille Ball, students will explore the time period and style and learn how to hilariously (and always safely) fall, crash, boom, and cause choreographed chaos around the stage.

With this production our central mission remains to highlight the talents and presence of our students. We will provide the opportunity for the involvement of as many students as we can safely manage both on stage and off. An additional highlight of the show is the unique era dance routines and the use of silent film within the show's story. We are excited to be teaming with Port Media to create short silent film segments and various Choreographers to create the dazzling time-period dance routines seen throughout the show.

As always, we will be in great need of parent volunteers to aide in costume and set construction, help with marketing, assist on show nights, and much more. Please contact the director if you can lend any services.

There will be a $50 production fee for each cast member. These funds will cover expenses such as set & costume materials, specialist workshops, props, and show marketing. As it is the mission of the Theater Dept. to provide an opportunity for any student who is cast to participate in the show, please contact the director if there are any financial constraints.

SHOW DATES: Wednesday April 5th at 6:00 Thursday April 6th at 7:00

Friday April 7th at 7:00 Saturday April 8th at 2:00 (strike & cast party to follow)

Rehearsals will be on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2:15 - 5:00** but students will not be needed at all rehearsals. Additional days may occasionally be required depending on the availability of our area specialists (filming, special choreography, etc). Students will be asked to list conflicts at the audition. While we will be understanding of occasional conflicts we are working around schedules of both school and non-school personnel so please be sure you can give an overall commitment to this rehearsal schedule. See our website for full information, a rehearsal schedule, and more. (**NockRain.weebly.com**)

* AUDITION INFORMATION *

Auditions will be held on **Monday December 5th & Tuesday December 6th** from 2:15 - 4:30 (sign up for a time outside the band room)

Students are asked to be prepare a **16-measure section from a musical theater song**. There will also be a dance portion so dress to move!

STUDENTS MUST HAVE PIANO MUSIC FOR THE AUDITION ACCOMPANIST and **PLEASE DO NOT SING A SONG FROM THIS SHOW**

Call-Backs will be held on **Thursday December 8st** at 2:15. Not all students will have to attend these but it is suggested to leave the date open should you be called back. If a student does not receive a call-back it does not mean they will not be cast.

Sheet music can be purchased, downloaded, and printed from **Musicnotes.com**, or music stores such as **Music & Arts** or **Guitar Center** in Danvers or at **Amazon.com** and **Sheetmusicplus.com**. Parents are encouraged to help students find a song appropriate for their vocal range. Avoid overly high (often pop) songs as they are less appropriate for young developing voices.

If you need help finding a song, please see the Mr. N **at least 1 week before audition** to ensure enough time.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at any time!

Brian Nickerson, *artistic and musical director*