

St. Joan of Arc Secondary School



Jubilant

60th Anniversary Musical

Our School

Established in 1955, St. Joan of Arc Secondary School is a subsidized Catholic secondary school run by the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. We will become co-educational starting from the academic year 2015-2016. Our mission is to provide an environment in which students will grow in Christ and put our Catholic faith into action. We aim at developing a caring culture and fostering an all-round education.



WORDS FROM PRINCIPAL

Any Dream Will Do

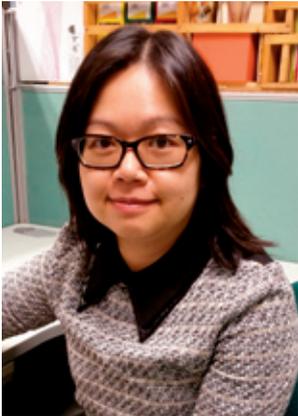
We all have dreams. In pursuing our dreams, we may face various challenges and we have to make a choice. Joseph, the main protagonist of our Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Musical, is betrayed by his eleven brothers out of fear and jealousy. After having toiled as a slave in Egypt for some time, Joseph gains power and wealth because of his ability in interpreting dreams. When his brothers beseech him for help, he may well use this opportunity to avenge his suffering, but he decides not to. He chooses forgiveness, he chooses love and he chooses family. Joseph has demonstrated to us how to live out the five core values, Truth, Justice, Love, Family and Life, in our daily life, in making our choices.

It is also our dream to stage the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Musical to share our joy of celebration with you. Our students and teachers' dedication in preparing for this musical through intensive training and practice deserves our applause. The colourful costumes and vivid props are the fruits of painstaking efforts of our teachers. Special thanks should go to our alumni who have made donations to upgrade the lighting system of the school hall for the best stage effect. Each and every member of the St. Joanian Family is a blessing from God and in unity, we have made this dream come true.

Don't be afraid to be Dreamers! Have faith in God! Have courage to pursue our dreams! God will lead us through!

Wong Wai Chun, Janet

WORDS FROM PRODUCERS



When the idea of launching the Diamond Jubilee Musical first came to my mind, I believed it was a really great opportunity for my students to explore their talents. I am quite confident with their delivery and presentation as long as intense training and practice is given before the performance. However, when it comes to a real public performance with props, costumes, lighting, sound and everything, it seems to me an impossible mission. Within almost one year of preparation, we are trying to make the impossible possible. Working as team, teachers, students and even alumni contributed their best to realize our dream. There was only one goal in our minds; we would like to let our students shine.

As an English teacher, I helped students with their pronunciation, intonation and delivery. The cast involved not only students who were proficient in English but also the average ones. They have really spent time and effort to make their speaking and singing clear and good. They also worked on dance, steps and stage movements which became even more challenging when multiple tasks have to be done at the same time. At the beginning, I could see hard work but frustration. I still remembered how disappointed they were after the first rehearsal. Gradually, I saw passion and confidence in them. I saw them grow and learn from failures and obstacles. On the day of the public performance, they showed everything that they have learnt and practiced on stage. Finally, all the effort paid off with the cheers and applause of the audience. The experience gained was priceless.

Producer
Ms. Y. Ho (English Panel Head)

It has always been my personal belief that putting on musicals and dramatic performances in school are great opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom. As a result, when it was decided that for our Diamond Jubilee Celebration we would be putting on a show, I was ecstatic. Being an all boys' school, my immediate reaction was to put on a rendition of the musical Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat. It was not going to be easy but with the help of our teachers and a lot of hard work, I was confident that we could do it.

After the audition and when preparations were underway, my main aim was to ensure that the students were familiar with the songs and also the lyrics. Some of the cast were students who were competent speakers of English and who had had experience performing in front of an audience. However, quite a few were students who lacked the confidence to use English publically. There would be nothing worse than putting on an English musical with actors who could not pronounce and articulate the words clearly. Helping students remember the lyrics and articulate and intonate them properly was challenging but as usual our students rose to the challenge and after weeks of rigorous training and effort they were soon doing very well. Despite many frustrations and lengthy practices, the cast never gave up and persevered.

The next stage was to start learning the dance steps and gestures. Initially, all I could see on the faces of our cast was anguish and irritation. It was extremely difficult to sing, remember steps and act at the same time and many of them had no experience at all. Under our guidance and that of the director and choreographer, increasingly the cast gained confidence and a sense of ownership. Through the hurdles and ups-and-downs, they began to grow and learn. The musical soon became their own and their commitment and dedication could be clearly seen.

On the day of the public performance, tears of joy filled my heart as they gave it their best shot and shone like stars. All their effort, time and sweat had paid off. The applause of the audience made this evident.

I am certain that all those students involved have learnt from this successful experience and the memory of their performance will stick with them for the rest of their lives. They have not only gained so much in terms of their English proficiency but that have also learnt about team work, endurance, commitment and hard work. I sincerely hope that in the future more and more of our students will take that first step out of their comfort zone and try something new and different. Bravo! To God be the glory, great things He hath done!!



Producer
Mr. Martin Ho (Net teacher)

WORDS FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR, PROPS AND SET DESIGNER, COSTUME DESIGNER



開始籌備時，一直令我頭痛的是選角問題，因為「若瑟與神奇彩衣」的歌曲大家都耳熟能詳，因此演員的演唱必須到位，才不致令表演失色。幸好在選角過程中，我們找到熱愛唱歌，願意努力學習的同學飾演各個重要角色，確實令人欣慰；而同學們正式的演出亦比預期中出色，也令我十分驚喜。

對我來說，這次的演出反而帶來全新挑戰，因為我決定親自飾演劇中一個重要但戲份不多的角色—法老，這個角色需要模仿貓王皮禮士利具有濃厚藍調味道的唱腔，而表情動作則需誇張做作，發揮強烈的搞笑效果。為了演好法老這個角色，我不斷模仿貓王的唱腔，背誦艱澀的歌詞，經過多月的練習，才能沾上皮毛。我要演繹貓王風格的歌曲，再配上動作、台風、眼神和步法，對我來說實在是一大突破，幸好家人、學生、朋友對我三場表演都有正面評價。

音樂總監
鄭加略老師 (音樂科主任)



記得第一次開籌備會議時，導演給了我一份道具清單，項目多不勝數。但製作時間卻只得半年，面對人手不足和製作成本有限的情況，我惟有硬著頭皮，搞盡腦汁，盡力而為。

我先做資料搜集，了解整個故事，然後上網參考其他團體的演出，研究他們的道具，接著便著手開始設計。我先用電腦立體繪圖軟件繪製舞台，然後逐件道具用電腦模擬繪製，以測試效果，滿意後便開始製作。為了爭取時間，我將每天放工時間推遲，但時間仍然不夠用，於是連星期六也回校趕製。幸好有聖誕假期和農曆新年假期緩衝，最終在三月初及時完成所有主要道具。

為了減低成本，絕大部份道具我都選用廢物利用的方法製成，至於人手方面，我動員了所有中一至中三同學一起以視覺藝術科的紙糊製作技巧來製作小綿羊，但其他較複雜的道具，便需要專業的技術才能完成。幸好我並不是孤軍作戰，我還有一班好同事，他們不但不斷給我支持和鼓勵，有的四處張羅，幫我搜購物料，有的為道具提供專業的電子技術協助，亦有同事利用自己的空閒和休息時間，甚至放工後仍然留下幫手，直至天黑。他們的義不容辭，令我非常感動。

最後，音樂劇在掌聲及歡呼聲中圓滿結束。我從未想過自己會親手創造出那麼多宏偉、壯觀的道具，它們是令我引以為傲的「藝術品」。製作過程雖然艱辛，且經歷無數失敗、挫折、灰心和氣餒，但既然天主賦予我「創作」的「塔冷通」，我便要好好善用它；凡事只要肯堅持，鍥而不捨，所有難題必能迎刃而解，每一個人都能活出自己的信念。

佈景及道具總監 梁欣榮老師 (視藝科主任)

At the start of preparations for the musical, I was asked to be the costume designer. I had no idea of my actual duties. While searching for information and chatting with friends about the costumes for the Musical at dinner time, God really knew my needs and unexpectedly HE prepared an 'angel' who finally played the most important role of designing and sewing all the costumes for the Musical! She was Ms. Lisa Tang, who is such a true friend indeed! Money can't buy this true friendship! Without much thought, she volunteered by helping me look for suitable cloth, designing and sewing all the costumes herself! Even though this was not supposed to be her job, she took it very seriously! She came to the school in person in order to see the actors trying on the costumes to check if the costumes fit the actors well! She did her best to sew the perfect costume for each actor. Her attitude has completely impressed me and I respect her so much!

Even now after the Musical, I dare not claim any credit for the work that has been done and only know the great work of God. I give tons of thanks to God and Glory to His name!

Through this Musical, I have benefited greatly. First I know I am nothing but God never leaves me alone! I remind myself to be humble in front of God!

Second, His Grace is more than enough! I am always and have been protected by His hands! Lisa volunteered to help. She never asked for a penny in return! It is like God's love!

Third, I have been greatly impressed by all the students on stage and backstage. They are all so wonderful and amazing! They are really lovely boys from God! For the past year, they have sacrificed a lot of their personal time practicing, learning to sing, dancing and doing different kinds of rehearsals. They have grown up and we should give our appreciation and thanks to them! We should feel proud of them and honoured because of them!

To conclude, the different scenes and the beautiful songs still appear in my mind even now that the Musical is done! I miss the melodious songs, the lovely actors, the amazing costumes, the miraculous props, the lighting and the hard-working teachers! I miss everything of the Musical even though we had to often practice late at school! When we have a will, everything is possible and can come true!



Costume Designer
Ms. L. C. Yeung

WORDS FROM BACKSTAGE TEACHERS



「若瑟的神奇彩衣究竟有多神奇？」

「最神奇的是那份意想不到的平凡。」

作為老師，我的理想就是讓同學在生活中懂得去尋覓平凡中的不平凡。意想不到校慶音樂劇表演不僅讓同學經歷掌聲背後的一課，也讓我嚐到那份從未試過的逾越。

說實話，當上音樂劇的負責老師本是毫不意外，但受命為舞台總監卻是受寵若驚，我實在沒有後台工作的經驗。如今還要我當領導者？難道祂真的要我喝這苦杯嗎？

在顛抖的路上，幸而有六位充滿天賦的同學及突如其來的鄧老師出現。他們對音響、燈光、台位、道具都十分在行，我們彼此分工合作、互補不足，眨眼就一同渡過了大半年。當然還要感謝比我更早開始準備的一眾老師、演員和同學。

演出前的一個月，六位同學也完成不了整個後台的工作。幸好十位充滿熱誠、醒目過人的孩子加入，使我們的後台工作組「成團」了。

正式公演前的地獄式綵排是耐力的挑戰。我要兼顧教學和排練，又要安撫同學們洩氣的情況，當中有血有淚，實在讓大家喘不過氣來。然而，堅毅、團結和使命感卻從沉重的壓力下發揮出來。儘管你只是按一個掣、說一句對白、給演員穿一件衫，我們的努力加起來，「事，就這樣成了！」共融的鬥志就是這樣建立起來。孩子們用自己的時間和心力去擦亮他們這一個充滿神奇的學年，而本來過著平凡生活的我，日子也被他們的色彩填滿了。

孩子，在平凡的人生中，繼續帶着這「神奇彩衣」的精神為自己更添色彩吧！

舞台監督 陳柔漢老師

“Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” was an excellent music show. I was touched by the story. I worked with the backstage crew most of the time although I joined them in the middle of the show. As I remember, there was not much team spirit at the beginning. When we got closer to the performance day, we had more and more practices, even rehearsing in the morning before the lesson and after school until 9:00 p.m. Team work had been built among the group members. I watched every team member become mature. In their attitude towards their work, we found sense of responsibility and commitment. They were able to handle the challenges properly. This was a valuable experience for me working with all teachers and students.



Deputy Stage Manager
Ms. Karol Tang

REHEARSAL



PERFORMANCES on 27th and 28th MARCH





BEHIND-THE-SCENES



SET PRODUCTION



A SHARED EXPERIENCE - AWESOME!



After the final performance on the last day of our musical show, I felt very upset because somehow there was an emotional emptiness and I wanted to perform again. Although I now have more time to concentrate on my studies and school work, my mind is still pre-occupied with the show. Everyone had done a good job and we all wanted to give a perfect performance. I feel very proud of my schoolmates and all the teachers who had helped organise this big project. I think it is an unforgettable event in my life. Finally, I hope we can get a chance to perform again in the future.

5FA Sam Lee

I was very proud of myself. Eight months of hard work had finally paid off. All of the fun and hard times, laughters and tears will be remembered. I will never forget the joy we all had together after the last performance. I've never been so dedicated and focused on one thing for such a long period of time before. This was really an amazing and memorable experience for me.

2FA Austin Chan

Narrator

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to perform as a narrator in the musical. It was an experience which comprised hardship and sweetness and one I had never encountered.

It was hardship when we were required to memorize everything, namely the plot, lyrics, dialogue, movements and steps with all the changes being made. Yet our students delivered, magnificently.

The sweet moment is that it is really a good opportunity for every schoolmate to recapitulate what our Lord God has done for us. This biblical act illustrates God has given his disciples various challenges, and all we need to react is to have faith towards him perpetually. Joseph was sold to Egypt by his beloved brothers and thus he had to work as a slave and be put in the cell. Under the hardships, God provided Joseph a talent for dream-interpretation and a forgiving heart. Eventually Joseph was able to use his talent to advise Pharaoh to store food for the famine years ahead. He finally forgave his brothers when he became the Prime Minister of Egypt. In our daily lives, everyone of us has ups and downs in resemblance to Joseph, yet we have to believe that God has assigned his paths for us and will lead us to navigate them even though it may not be a straight path.

Thank Lord for offering me such a precious chance to recall and recapitulate how I should transform my life following his blessed disciples' footsteps.

Pierra Lai (Alumni)



Brother

After the performance, I felt very relaxed and satisfied. I think we have given a very good performance and it felt great getting an ovation from students of other schools, our parents, classmates and teachers.

I've learnt a lot about musical, teamwork, friendship and time management. I want to thank our director, Phoenix, our assistant director, Marco, our choreographer, Rick, the backstage members, actors and teachers. This is a great experience for me. I've made new friends, improved my English and become more confident.

2FA Gaston Yeng
(Benjamin)

After joining the musical, I learnt more about myself, not only dancing and singing, but also more about my school and friendship. I have met some higher form students from the school and I learnt something important from them. I have learnt to be a more intelligent and a better person.

1FA Thomas Wong
(Gad)

After the musical performance, I felt so proud of us. It was my first time dancing and acting in a public performance. At the very beginning, I had never expected that we could do it like professionals. When I saw the audience concentrating on our performance and enjoying it so much, I was so thankful that I had joined this musical.

5FA Tony Lam
(Reuben)

After the musical, I felt satisfied because I have grown a lot and learnt how to face difficulties. I won't forget what I have learnt in the process. I really thank the school for giving me a chance to be involved in the event and thus uncovered my talents. It was the most important part of my school life.

5HO Rico Kwan
(Simeon)

After this musical, I found new talents of my own. I really like singing, dancing and acting. I have also made new friends in the process. I really want to perform on stage and I would like to be a great performer in future. I want to thank my school for giving me such an opportunity to be part of the cast. I would also like to thank our director and dancing instructor. Without their help, our performance will never be such a success. The whole experience was awesome.

4JU Richie So
(Judah)

After doing this musical, I felt like everything was a great experience for me. I have also learnt a lot of drama skills and how to improve them.

I also wanted to say thank you to all the teachers involved in the production, including Ms. Li, Ms. Chan, Ms. Y. Ho, Mr. Martin Ho, Mr. Dennis Yeung and Ms. Karol Tang. Because of them, I have learned a lot from my past mistakes and now I am ready to strive for a better future. Wish all of our dreams come true.

2FA Donald Mak
(Dan)

After performing the musical for three times, I felt so exhausted. It was actually the first time I felt that way. My arms hurt when I raised them, I got headaches for a long time and a lot more. But they didn't really matter, especially when the audience liked the show. The sensation compensated for all the pain and hard work.

Actually, during one of the shows, I sprained my ankle when I was dancing. I winced when it occurred, I could hardly bear the pain from the ankle, but since I knew I was performing in front of my parents, I tried hard to ignore the pain. In the end, I ignored the pain by sheer willpower.

All I want to say is that if you put effort into something, it always pays off. And that is how I completed this huge task: performing for all of you.

1FA Marcus Cheng
(Asher)



A SHARED EXPERIENCE - AWESOME!

I am happy that we have performed our musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat and we all did a great job. Many people appreciated us and we really showed our best on 27th and 28th March 2015. I think this is a good experience from which we can learn how to sing and dance. After our performance, I was so unwilling to let go of the musical and I really wanted to take part in it again because I had gained a big sense of accomplishment after the show. It was a great chance for us to learn and I did really learn a great deal.

5FA Peter DY
(Levi)



After the musical, I felt elated since we had done a great job. However, I miss everything about the musical – the dancing, singing and the teachers. We did a lot of things to prepare for the show and we practised very often. Although it was extremely hard and it sometimes made me feel exhausted, I miss it and would like to do it again. It was a great experience! I am proud of all of us!

5FA Andy Lam
(Naphtali)

I felt sad that this was the end of the anniversary musical. But this is only the beginning of a journey through drama. At first, I felt intimidated because I was shy when standing in front of 700 people! But after the training, I was not afraid any more.

2HO Jason Wong
(Zebulun)

Chorus



It was a totally unforgettable experience with a lot of hard work and effort.

1FA Ryan Man

Being a member of the chorus in the musical, I have learnt a lot about cooperation. I need to sing and dance at the same time. The training sessions were so hard and challenging. Although we had to attend rehearsals after school every day, we still enjoyed a lot. We were glad that we could perform very well because of the help of the backstage crew and the guidance of our teachers, director and choreographer.

1FA Toby Kwok



After this musical, I have learnt so much. I have learnt how to sing, dance and co-operate with others. This is great as I have learnt something that can't be learnt in my daily life.

1FA Winston Tang

In the past few years, I was in my element when I was acting on stage. I really enjoyed being under the spot light. But in this musical production, I changed my role from an actor to an assistant director. Honestly speaking, this is a big challenge for me because I had never directed a musical before. Fortunately, the director and the teachers who participated in this musical taught and guided me to complete this impossible mission! I would like to thank them for their teaching and guidance. They also inspired me so that I can solve problems in a better way. After this event, I felt my personal qualities had improved a lot. The experience not only widens my horizon of art, but also makes me a better person.



I am not the only one who grew up due to this musical. I also witnessed the growth of other actors. I can still remember the first day of rehearsal when all the actors were not really concentrated in the performance. I could not even feel the joy that they had standing on stage performing in front of the audience. They lacked the passion which was the most important for being an actor. Before the show, I doubted whether they could be part of this popular Broadway musical. After the performance, however, I have to say, they have done a really great job! Stones need to be polished and honed before they become a diamond, so do the actors. Behind a brilliant performance, they need to practise more than a thousand times.

I believe this musical production is not only a public performance. This is a life-changing journey for everyone who has been a part of the event!

It is my honour to have participated in this BRAVO performance. Thank you.

Assistant Director
5 HO Marco Tang



In this 60th Anniversary Musical, I was part of the backstage crew with two major duties, lighting and sound. This was a big multi-tasking challenge to me as I was always doing two things at the same time. And at last, it was a success. I have done my very best to make the stage colorful and fascinating.

In the process, I have learnt many things such as controlling the sound and voice quality with the audio system. As the leader of the sound and lighting team, I was glad that some junior form students showed interest in this aspect because of the experience gained in this musical. It is so great that what I have learnt can be passed on to them.

Assistant Stage Manager
5HO Mark Tsang

A SHARED EXPERIENCE - AWESOME!

Last year, I made a hard and big decision in my life, which was to repeat Form 5 this year. I planned to get better results in DSE by studying hard for one more year. As I was dedicated to spending most of my time on my schoolwork, I didn't go to the musical audition last May. But I felt regret in September as I had missed the opportunity to take part in the school's 60th anniversary musical. Finally I joined the musical as the Assistant Stage Manager.



When the rehearsal of the musical was in progress, my backstage members got problems with the setting of some stage scenes and the director started complaining. We felt frustrated and some of us even wanted to give up. The reason why the scenes couldn't be set smoothly was we didn't cooperate well and we needed more time to practise and polish our skills, so we spent plenty of time to practise and practise before the show. Practice makes perfect! On the opening day, our backstage team did our best to coordinate with all the teachers and students who performed in the show. As all can see, the production was a great success and much better than I had expected. I have never regretted taking part in this memorable event even I am busy preparing for the coming DSE.

From this musical, we have learnt to communicate with and appreciate one another though we had had misunderstanding. Perseverance, being proactive and cooperative are the basic qualities needed for each member of the team, otherwise our show would not have been so successful.

I really want to say thank you to all the people who have contributed to the show, especially our lower form schoolmates. Although you are the little ones in the school, you have made a lot of effort in the success of the musical. We're really proud of you.

If someone asks me which school I am studying in, I will proudly answer him: I am a student of St. Joan of Arc Secondary School.

Assistant Stage Manager
5CH Chris Mak



It was my first time to be a backstage crew member of the SJA 60th Anniversary Musical. I find this experience very fresh and warm. When the front-stage and backstage members helped each other, we St Joanians were like a big family. After the last curtain call, we cheered together and shared our joy of success. Last, it was a great experience to have taken part in this grand event with my new partners!

Backstage Crew
3FA Billy Leung

It was a unique and rewarding opportunity for me to participate in the SJA 60th Anniversary Musical. Although being a backstage crew member sounds easy, I think the challenges we faced were not petty. The success of this performance has demonstrated the effective collaboration between the front-stage and backstage members. As well, it was satisfying to see the props being used on stage, since some of them were made by me! Would I take part in this musical if I were given another opportunity again? The answer is certainly yes. Throughout these months, I have met not only good schoolmates and teachers but also good partners.



Backstage Crew
3FA Calvin Chung