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Pine-Richland thespians bring 'Addams Family' to life

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DIGITAL SHOEBOX

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL IS PREPARED TO SHARE THE STORY OF THE CREEPIEST FAMILY AROUND IN THE MUSICAL VERSION OF "THE ADDAMS FAMILY."

BY KAREN PRICE

Mention the Addams Family, and so many things will pop into people's minds, from the opening four notes and two snaps to the wacky cast of characters that surround the macabre but endearing family of Gomez and Morticia and children Wednesday and Pugsley.

The stage musical version — "The Addams Family" — that Pine-Richland High School

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"When Lucas and his family show up you see the families interact and it's hilarious, " said senior Thomas Andrews, who plays Gomez. "Wednesday wants us to be normal to impress her boyfriend, but they know we're weird, we know we're weird and when we have dinner it all goes to heck."

The cast includes 52 students with a 21-member student orchestra plus the student-run crew.

In addition to Andrews, the cast features senior Meghan Wilson as Morticia; senior Paige Nelson as an 18-year-old Wednesday; sophomore Logan Krushinski as her boyfriend Lucas Beineke; senior Hayden Unitas as Alice Beineke; junior Victor Williams as Mal Beineke; senior Ethan O'Neil as Uncle Fester; senior Grace Dugan as Grandma; freshman Jack Exline as Pugsley, and senior Josh Lukez as Lurch.

The musical opened on Broadway in 2010 starring Nathan Lane as Gomez and Bebe Neuwirth as Morticia.

Andrews said it was fun for him to go back and watch how different actors brought their own style to Gomez on television, the big screen and the stage while keeping all the things that make the character who he is.

"There are certain elements you find in the characters where this is Gomez, and this is Morticia, and no matter who's playing them that's consistent, " he said. "Gomez is a romantic, and if you don't get that down it's not convincing. If you get that romantic part down you can run with it. Our Morticia, she's amazing and so we're bouncing energy off each other and feeding off each other and that drives the characters."

Senior McKenna Exline is the student producer and said audiences will no doubt be impressed by not only the talent but also the stunts and the costumes, which she said are the best she's seen from Pine-Richland.

"I think (audiences) are just going to love the story, " she said. "It's such a cute story about this small family and how love really conquers all."

If you go

What: Pine-Richland High School's production of "The Addams Family" musical

When: March 13, 14, 20, and 21 at 7:30 p.m., and matinee performance March 21 at 2 p.m. Complimentary senior citizen performance March 12 at 4 p.m., no reservations required.

Tickets: \$15 reserved ticket on the main floor and \$10 general admission on the balcony. Purchase online at www.pinerichland.org/musical or at the box office from 1 to 3 p.m. on

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