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THE SAGINAW NEWS

Monday, March 31, 2008

## OPINION

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### Play was a delight

Editor, The News:

On Feb. 23 I attended the performance of "Picasso Becomes You" by Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy students. What a delight.

The play was written by teacher Jenny Rogers-Belleau. As a former educator, I was amazed at the learning experience for the students and me. The play was set in a museum, which wound through a café, halls, the media center and, finally, into the theater. The students were costumed to portray Picasso's works and depicted his life and effect on the development of art and its relationship to cultural styles. The blending of art and design, creative writing, creative expression and presentation gave these students an educational experience incorporating

many learning styles.

This project was a collaborative effort with the Saginaw Art Museum, another plus for the arts in this current time of budget crunches. Furthermore, the students have adopted a fundraising program at the museum to frame and mat for display the collection of 28 World War II posters donated to the museum. What community spirit!

I do not attend as many student productions as I did when my own children were in school, but I'm glad I did not miss this. Saginaw is so fortunate to have such an active arts community.

Many of our students in Saginaw County have gone on to bigger venues. For some, these experiences provide lifetime occupations. For others it is exposure to our culture, which is the "footprint of mankind" on this Earth to which all of us can relate. This entertainment was special. Bravo to Jenny Rogers-Belleau and her SASA students!

Susan Kaltenbach  
Saginaw



Caroline C. Sieger, 16, gets her face painted before re-entering the stage during a performance of "Picasso Becomes You" at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. Sieger, an exchange student, is hosted by Mia Krapp of Saginaw. From left, Karl N. Hobson, 18, Maureen G. Sullivan, 14, and Da'Lyn R. Suttice, 14, pose during the performance. Hobson is the daughter of Steve and Karen Hobson of Bridgeport Township. Sullivan is the daughter of Bill and Deborah Sullivan of Saginaw. Suttice is the daughter of Georgia Suttice of Saginaw.

DANA RIEBER/THE SAGINAW NEWS

# Picasso comes to life

THE SAGINAW NEWS

If a picture is worth a thousand words, students at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy hope their masterpieces can fetch a few dollars per syllable.

Theater students at the city school hosted performances of an original production, "Picasso Becomes You," to raise money for the Saginaw Art Museum.

With students dressed as works of Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, they transformed part of the school into an art gallery filled with the works of Picasso and a selection of art pieces found in the Saginaw Art Museum.

Organizers put on the production to raise money to have a donated 28-piece World War I poster collection matted and framed.

An expatriate who settled in France, Picasso was a pacifist who did not take sides during World War I or II.

After several weekend performances, the production raised about \$1,800, said Principal Janet Nash.

The students set a target of \$6,000 and will continue their fundraising efforts. ♦





# News & Notes

A monthly newsletter for SPS employees & parents

April 2008



## Students raise funds for Saginaw Art Museum

Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy Theatre students have adopted a 28-piece WWI poster collection from the Saginaw Art Museum. The goal was to raise \$6,000 to have the entire collection properly matted and framed. To reach this goal, students performed an original production of *Picasso Becomes You*, a live art exhibit and play, which made its debut on the SASA stage February 22 and 23.

The play, written by SASA Theatre instructor Jenny Rogers-Belleau, involved the story of two young students; one is an art lover who has been assigned the task of recreating a Picasso art piece on the human form and

the other, the antagonistic friend who doesn't understand the world of modern art and wants to go home. The play veered from traditional play structure and turns a portion of the school into an art gallery filled with the works of Picasso and a selection of art pieces found in the Saginaw Art Museum.

"In the play, audience members were put into tour groups as soon as they walk in the front door. At that moment, they were enveloped in the play by enjoying the tour of the 'museum' with the young art students (actors Joe Faust and German exchange student Caroline Sieger). The tour was about thirty minutes long and ended in the auditorium, where guests were seated for the remainder of the play," explained Rogers-Belleau, director. "During the course of the evening, various pieces of art came to life and returned to their static state, as they dodge notice of the real world and engaged in a lively discussion regarding the importance and beauty of certain works of art. Students put in many hours over the course of the last few months and have surprised themselves at what they've accomplished."

Jenny Rogers-Belleau, SASA



# entertainment

coming events, critical highlights, and reviews.

## *Picasso Becomes You*

By Megan Schneider

This year's fall show, *Picasso Becomes You*, an art performance play, is being produced by both the high school Art and Theatre concentrations and students.

An art gallery, made up of important art pieces and students interacting to form the artwork, is set throughout the school, while the play takes place in the auditorium.

The show starts out with a curator leader taking groups of the audience throughout the gallery for 20 minutes of short scenes. The groups are then led into the auditorium for the start of the show.

"The show was pushed back two months due to all of the different theatrical aspects involved. Also, it is a student produced show, which is new for most of the cast. But I have faith in the cast and in Ms. Jenny Rogers. This show will come together, I promise you," explains Trisha Johnson (12, Theatre) who

took lead in the show as Olga Picasso.

Working with the Saginaw Art Museum, Ms. Jenny Rogers was given permission from local artists to display the art pieces next to the students portraying them in the show. In return, the cast will help the museum fundraise to re-frame old World War II pieces.

Rumor has it, *Picasso Becomes You* will once again put the theatre program on the map. But who's to tell? We'll find out in early January.

4 Wednesday, February 20, 2008

FIRST SECTION

### METRO BRIEFS

#### Play to benefit Saginaw museum

Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy theater students are hosting performances of an original production, "Picasso Becomes You," to raise funds for the Saginaw Art Museum.

The students hope to raise \$6,000 to have a 28-piece World War I poster collection matted and framed.

The play is at 6:15 p.m. Friday and 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Saturday. Tickets cost \$7 and are at the school, 200 Congress, or the Saginaw Art Museum, 1126 N. Michigan. Seating is limited to 120 people per show.

# THE ART BEAT

The Official Newsletter of the Saginaw Art Museum

In 2007, initiated efforts to adopt art at the Saginaw Art Museum. This project was part of the original play *Picasso Becomes You* which debuted at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy in 2008 and was reprised in 2009 at the Children's Art Festival. Students participated at events and activities to promote the museum, encouraging adoption of works of art in the WWI poster collection. Four posters have been refurbished and newly framed to date; three are pictured below.



**CLYDE FORSYTHE**  
 (American, 1865-1962)  
*And They Thought We Couldn't Fight*  
 1918 lithograph on paper  
 SAM # 1998.8.10  
 Adopted for framing by Janet H. Nash, Principal of Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Saginaw, Michigan.



## WORLD WAR I POSTERS

Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy students are working to raise funds for the Museum to go towards the Adopt a Work-of-Art program. Students from SASA have a vision of framing the entire collection of WWI posters.