

SFHS WRITERS@WORK

The Actor

by Ben Anderson

The St. Francis Fine Arts Program is held in high regard by all who both see it and take part in it. With the recent conclusion of our 25th anniversary production of *MAN OF LA MANCHA*, the St. Francis High School Players are the talk of the community. Parents, faculty, students, friends, and alumni were all in attendance at this amazing production. For many of the players, this experience provides an outlet for creativity and a way to enjoy camaraderie amongst friends and get a taste of the spotlight. But for some, there is so much more for them behind the curtain. A select group of these past St. Francis Players have gone on to the professional, demonstrating their skills to the masses. St. Francis high school Player and alumni **Alan Trinca** is one of these amazing actors. I was given the opportunity to speak with him about his experiences in the theatre, both at St. Francis and every beyond, and he was able to share his story.

For Alan, St. Francis Theatre was the reason he didn't try-out for any sports in high school. He often contemplated playing football, but deep down always knew that his true passion was the arts, as he felt naturally drawn to it. He started his theatrical career at Frannies

with minor roles in *HELLO DOLLY*, *THE DINING ROOM*, and *OKLAHOMA*. Though his roles in these productions were small, Alan said that it was during these shows that he learned a great deal. Simply being a part of the cast allowed him the opportunity to watch upperclassmen work, recognizing talent, and striving to better his own skills as a result. "A common misconception among high schoolers involved in theatre is that if you are cast as a minor role, your presence is essentially unimportant, which couldn't be more inaccurate," says Alan. "At the risk of sounding cliché, there are no small roles."

Alan's blossoming ability in the theatre then continued into his junior and senior year, playing Pippin in the show *PIPPIN* as well as playing Lumiere in *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*. Though he was granted such principle roles, he kept all of this in perspective. He says that, "I understood that Saint Francis was a small pond, so even when I had the opportunities to play these parts, I didn't let it feed my ego. I did very well at the collegiate level also, being cast every semester of my four years at Niagara University. But, again, while NU was a step up from high school, it was still a very small pond."

With such success at both the high school and collegiate level, it is no surprise Alan continued his passion beyond all that. He said that he has been actively involved in the Buffalo professional theatre scene since graduation, being cast in roles like Alex in *A CLOCKWORK ORANGE*, Gerald in *A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE*, Much in *ROBIN HOOD* (which he is currently working on), and Lieutenant Langon in *PLOUGH AND THE STARS*. During all of this, he has worked at the Kavinoky, Irish Classical Theatre Co, Torn Space, Theatre Of Youth, and will be working at Musically at the top of next season. But even with all of this, Alan continues to keep his work in perspective. "I understand that Buffalo is just another bigger small pond. This city is my home, and the people in the theatrical community are my friends, and some truly talented people. It has been an honor to work with these individuals and have the opportunity to practice my craft at the professional level. However, I want to find out at what level I can compete. After *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* at Musically, I plan on moving to New York City, just about the biggest pond there is."

So what advice does Alan have for anyone with a passion for theatre? He stresses hard work and dedication. "Make it a priority, not simply an extracurricular activity you do because it's fun. Don't go into the field if you don't absolutely love it, because there will come a time when you're working with a cast that's not as fun to be around as it was in high school. When that happens, the only thing that will keep you engaged is the love of your art, and if you don't have that, you'll get nowhere. Dream big, keep things in perspective, work hard, take advantage of opportunities, be bold, and always be grateful."



The 80,000 Dollar Injury

by Ryan Hornberger

Lacrosse is a new and evolving sport around the United States. Some say it's the fastest sport on two feet. It's also one of the fastest sports growing in the United States. Lacrosse being a newer sport and all gives many elite high school athletes better chances of finding college scholarships. Tim Galley, a student here at St. Francis found this out recently when Mt. Union came to him willing to give him half of the cost of college tuition. He is currently the starting goalie of St. Francis Varsity Lacrosse. In his fourth year of lacrosse it's amazing how this could happen so fast. Let's hear it from Tim himself:

Q: When did you first start lacrosse?

A: I started playing freshman year when I tried out for middle. Mr. Herrmann was our coach.

Q: Why did you change to goalie?

A: During freshman year our goalie got injured after about the first game. Someone needed to step up fast before our next game. The team looked to me because they knew that I was a hockey goaltender. That's when I began playing goalie and ended up enjoying it.

Q: What's the best part about playing goalie?

A: The best part about playing goalie is being the guy that can change the game single handedly. Having the team look to you to step up and make big saves. That's the best part.

Q: What is it like to be pegged by a lacrosse ball?

A: The pain is unexplainable for the first 30 seconds when you get a hard shot to the shin, but after some time, the adrenaline kicks in and you get right back up. It hurts the worst to be hit anywhere in the cold weather when it's below 32 degrees.

Q: Do you plan to play lacrosse in college?

A: Yes, I am going to attend the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. I got exposure to college teams over the summer playing champion lacrosse. I also spoke with the coaches for Rutgers University, Boston College, Tampa University and Nazareth College. I chose Mount Union because they were willing to give me 20,000 of tuition. It costs 35,000 a year to go there so it helps out a ton. Financial Aid is going to help me save money as well.

Q: What separates Mount Union from the other colleges?

A: I chose Mount Union because I liked the atmosphere. They have a very nice student body and I felt the great connection between the students. Also because they have great academics.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY RICHARD LUCZAK

I cannot believe it is already April! Even as we enter the 4th quarter, there are still so many activities to participate in around campus!



Student Council has been working hard on Prom preparations and various other proposals. The Spring Dance was held at the beginning of March, with an attendance estimated to be around 650 students! Outstanding SFHS student participation! As for the future Student Council plans, we have the Faculty Appreciation Day coming up, as well as, the Justinian Dinner Auction. I look forward to seeing everyone at this important event!

Elections for next year's Executive Board are going to be occurring in May. Applications will be available soon from Miss McDermott. If you are interested in participating in Student Council next year, stop in and ask a question or two! We are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

I have been really impressed with the school spirit of the students [and faculty] this year. Kudos to you for exemplifying what St. Francis High School is all about!

SENIORS - Please review for any AP Exams you may be taking and finish the year strong in all of your classes. Remember, your academics come **FIRST** and should be a top priority. Take advantage of the review sessions teachers may be offering and attend them! Ask questions! Do practice problems! Hard work is the key to success.