KM Drama students up for Blumey Awards

Kings Mountain High School Performing Arts Department is among 72 nominees, six in each of the 12 categories, who are are competing in the 4th High School Musical Theater Awards which recognizes the best in high school theater.

The winners will be announced at 7 p.m. on May 17 in Belk Theater in Charlotte. WBTV's Maureen O'Boyle will emcee. Tickets for the awards ceremony go on sale April 30 at 10 a.m. and range from $40 to $60. They can be purchased at Blumenthal/Arts.org or over the p hone at 704-372-1000.

The awards ceremony will feature performances by six finalists for best actor and best actress. Two students from each production will be featured in opening and closing production numbers. The Doctor Family Foundation will also award a $10,000 annually renewable scholarship to two area students.

The national show and ceremony will take place in New York on June 29.The two students named best actor and actress will receive an all-expenses-paid trip and week-long stay in New York City where they will train and compete with other regional winners, Blumenthal Performing Arts says.

For three years the Kings Mountain H igh School Performing Arts Department, under the direction of Dan Treharne, has participated in the Blumeys and this year's musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," has been nominated for seven awards: best ensemble, chorus; best featured performer Austin Willis as Orin; best supporting actor Tobias Curry as Audrey II; best actress Jensen Fleisher as Audrey; best actor Jack Pearson as Seymour; best overall direction; and best musical.

Jack Pearson as Seymour and Jensen Fleisher, right, as Audrey, in a scene from the KMHS production of "Little Shop of Horrors."

The Wells Fargo "best musical" category will consist of two tiers with three schools being nominated within each tier. Tier I includes schools with a musical production budget of under $10,000 and Tier II includes arts magnet schools and schools with musical production budget of $10,000 or more.

Eight schools, including Kings Mountain High, are in competition for best musical award, KMHS for "Little Shop of Horrors."

Students scoring in the top 20 in the best actor and best actress categories will be invited to audition before a special panel on Saturday, May 2. The six nominees for both of these categories will be chosen after the auditions and announced on Monday, May 4.

Kings Mountain High School's Jack Pearson, who had the role of Seymour in "Little Shop of Horrors" is among the best actors from 20 schools chosen in the top 20 for the audition.

Kings Mountain High is among six schools chosen for best ensemble/chorus in the production of "Little Shop of Horrors," among six schools chosen for best overall direction, and among six schools for best featured performer, Austin Willis as Orin in "Little Shop of Horrors" and Tobias Curry as Audrey II, best supporting actor, in "Little Shop of Horrors."

The Blumey Awards is produced by the Blumenthal Arts' Education Department and presented by Wells Fargo.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS – Pictured are members of the cast of "Little Shop of Horrors," the recent production by the KMHS Performing Arts Departments. Front row, from left, Leah Nations, Jonah Williams, Casey Johnson, Tobias Curry, Haley Johnson, Jacob Edmondson, Akeela Frost, Brennin Fleisher; second row, Jailah Pettis, Rachel Mower, Sophia Kellstrom, Jensen Fleisher, Jack Pearson, Ashlea Hodge, Nyla Barnes, Skylar Smith; third row, Jeremiah Fite, Landon Ervin, Austin Willis, Rielly Neal, William Towery, Brandon Towery, and Cole Smith.

PERFORMERS- Pictured are seven members of the cast of "Little Shop of Horrors" in a musical routine. From left, Jailah Pettis, Sophia Kellstrom, Rachel Mower, Jack Pearson, Ashlea Hodge, Nyla Barnes and Skylar Smith.

KM Woman's Club tours KM Historical Museum

Adria Focht, Director/Curator at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, gave 20 members of the Kings Mountain Woman's Club a tour of the museum April 27 and pointed out the numerous exhibits, "Pioneering Women of Kings Mountain," which includes pictures and memorabilia from a number of Kings Mountain women and their contributions to the community.

Focht began the tour at the front of the building and talked about each exhibit as the members walked by the various cases filled with mementos. The exhibit is open to the public during museum hours through May.

Among exhibits displayed were those of Minerva Stone Tracy, the first postmistress; Lottie Goforth who left her estate of $20,000 for the building of Kings Mountain Hospital; Mary Accor, the first woman chairman of the board of Cleveland County Commissioners; Ruby Alexander, the first woman contractor; Hazel Herndon Fryer, the founding president of the Historical Museum who donated her wedding dress and a Red Cross uniform; Lib Stewart, who served as the 2000 National President of the American Legion Auxiliary and is longtime writer for The Kings Mountain Herald, who has displayed numerous articles from her travels for the Auxiliary and a vintage typewriter displayed by Greg Ledford, publisher of The Herald. There are many more photographs and artifacts of early pioneers and numerous other women featured in the exhibit, open to the public during museum hours through the month of May.

The Kings Mountain Woman's Club's exhibit in the museum features a look back into the club's 100 year history and features Mrs. Katherine (Aubrey) Mauney and her service to the club.

Pictured are 20 members of KM Woman's Club who toured the Historical Museum.

Ann Bennett is club president and Lois Blanton is club reporter. The club has applied for a grant to begin restoring the Woman's Club beginning with the floor in the dining room and kitchen.

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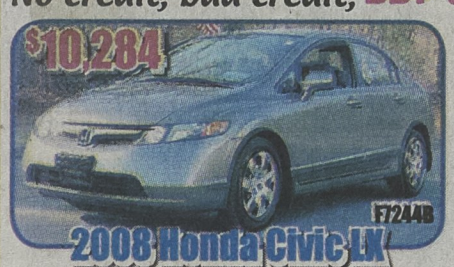

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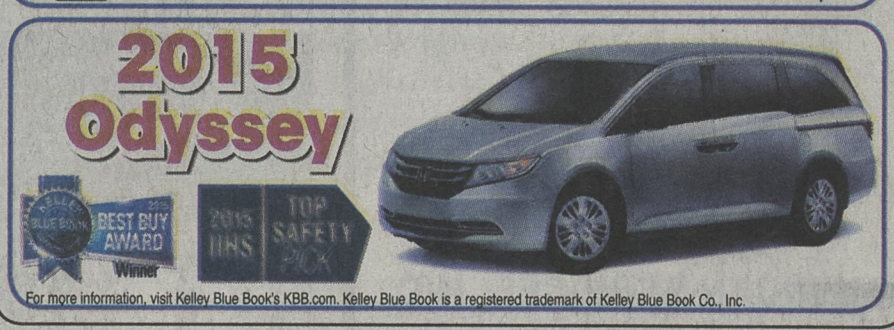

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