

Chorus heralds winter season

By Jill Seegmiller
Reporter

Religious affiliations aside, the winter season is a special time for everyone, and Laguna Beach High School's Chorus is no exception.

Students, parents and members of the Laguna Beach community are in-

vited to the Winter Choral Concert, at the Artists' Theatre on Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. The coed chorus will perform songs such as "Simple Gifts," variations on "Jingle Bells" and the festive holiday ballad "Stomp Your Foot!"

Roxanna "Roxy" Ward leads the chorus every Monday and Wednesday

from 4:00 to 5:30p.m. Her direction helps freshman Nick Leighton "express [him]self and prepare for the musicals."

This year, the winter concert has a soulful and spiritual theme with song choices such as "Elijah Rock" and the special boys' number "Wade in the Water," both tradi-

tionally religious songs.

"There have never been enough guys in chorus to do their own song [before now]," Sam "Moose" Hilburn, sophomore, said.

The boys in the chorus see the Winter Concert as an opportunity to flaunt their voices, which they have been training for weeks in preparation for the concert.

For Wyatt Fair, sophomore, chorus is an opportunity to "make friends," while sophomore Bradley Barnes enjoys "spending time with girls."

The members of chorus are looking forward to the winter concert and dutifully attend rehearsals and practices each week to learn new

songs and train their voices.

Indeed, Laguna Beach High School's winter music performance is for those who love music and rejoice in the community's youthful voices celebrating the holiday season. As Brooks Freeman, sophomore, simply said, "I just really love singing."

Broadway declines

Broadway shows close mysteriously.

By Camille Ring
Reporter

Legally Blonde the Musical. Rent. *A Tale of Two Cities*. These shows and a number of others have already closed, and more are waiting to depart Broadway.

"I think it's stupid," Caroline Rechter, sophomore and Broadway fan, said.

While a number of shows have already made their final bow, a next set of shows is going to close, like *Spring Awakening*, *Spamalot* and *Hairspray*.

"It's not fair to the pro-

ducers, the performers and the fans!" Rechter said.

The actual reason the large amounts of shows are closing all at once is unspecified. A possible reason for this decline could be because of the declining economy. Families are trying to conserve money for more important reasons, so they do not have the money and time to go out and see a Broadway show.

Another possible reason could be that people are getting bored of theatre; they don't want to sit through a two-hour show, including an intermission filled with people chatting amongst themselves while

awaiting the next half of the performance to start.

While shows might be closing and leaving a number of theatres deserted, the music and messages of the shows will stay in the hearts of thousands of fans. On the plus side, new shows will replace the old shows and continue the magic of Broadway.

"Even though certain shows are closing, there are many new shows continuing to open such as *West Side Story* and *9 to 5*. And such shows as *Legally Blonde* and *Spring Awakening* are on tour right now," E.J. Kramer, freshman, said.

The Secret Life of Bees

By Addie Rubino
Reporter

Although she is just 14 years old, Dakota Fanning proves once again that she is an acting powerhouse in the film *The Secret Life of Bees*.

Fanning, Queen Latifa and Jennifer Hudson star in Gina Prince-Bythewood's film adaptation of Sue Monk Kidd's book of the same name. Actors Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo and Paul Bettany also play moving supporting rolls, pulling on the audience's heartstrings at nearly every turn.

Fanning stars as Lily Owens, a troubled girl with a dark past and an abusive father. It is 1964 in South

Carolina, and Lily's life is turbulent. She is haunted by the memory of her late mother, of whom she has few memories, and she is abused by a distant and mean drunk father.

Lily, who dreams of becoming a writer, escapes one night from her troubled home and runs away to a South Carolina town that may hold the secrets to her mother's past. Lily's black caregiver, Rosaleen Daise (Hudson), comes along after being severely beaten for attempting to register to vote.

Lily and Rosaleen are taken in by the Boatwright sisters, where Lily finds solace in their world of beekeeping.

The three Boatwright sisters are filled with warm comfort and advice for Lily as they provide an environment in which Lily is able to learn about herself and her strengths as a person. It is an uplifting film, sprinkled by the occasional tearful moment.

I'm not usually one for chick flicks, but *The Secret Life of Bees* is an exception. I recommend it to anyone who is up for a real tear-jerker.

Correction:
Last issue's article titled "Juno who" was written by Addie Rubino.

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