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Shea's Summer Musical Theatre Intensive Finishes with Showcase of Original Musical Created by the Campers

Students Wrote and Performed Original Production on Shea's Buffalo Stage

From July 8 through July 19, students ages 9-17 participated in Shea's Summer Musical Theatre Intensive camp. Over two weeks, campers were immersed in day-long choreography, acting, writing, and vocal workshops across the Shea's Performing Arts Center Campus while preparing for a final performance.

"Youth involvement in the performing arts provides lessons in collaboration, problem-solving, and communication, which young people carry into adulthood," said Shea's President and CEO Brian Higgins. "It's great to see the Shea's campus bustling with creative energy as eager campers dive into the world of theatre."

Approximately 80 students participated in the camp. Students came from across Western New York including young performers from Amherst, Buffalo, Cheektowaga, Colder, Depew, East Aurora, Elma, Grand Island, Hamburg, Lake View, Lancaster, Lewiston, Lockport, Niagara Falls, Orchard Park, Tonawanda, West Seneca, and Wheatfield.

The theme for this year's showcase was: "Creature Chronicles." Six groups of campers, led by 15 local teaching artists, each designed a 10-minute musical which included an original song. On the last day of camp, July 19, each group presented their production in a showcase event for parents and guests.

"There are always a few kids that walk in the first day with some trepidation and by the end of day one they are making friends and eager to come back – that's the power of theatre," said Shea's Vice President for Arts Engagement and Education Victoria Perez-Maggiolo. "They come together and have that shared experience – the impact is huge."

Established in 1926, the mission of Shea's Performing Arts Center is: "To restore and maintain Shea's Buffalo Theatre for present and future generations to enjoy as a working historic theatre providing a wide variety of live performing arts experiences for our patrons and innovative and effective educational experiences fostering an appreciation of live theatre by area youth."

Shea's will host students for two additional camps this summer, the Actor's Edge, which runs from July 22 through August 2, and Comedy on Cue, during the week of August 5 through August 9. For more information on Shea's camps, classes, and workshops visit: <https://www.sheas.org/classes-workshops/>.