

# KeizerCommunity

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**MCNARY'S FOURTH ANNUAL ONE ACT FESTIVAL**

**ALL STUDENT - WRITTEN NEW WORKS**

**APEX** BY: BRADEN BEDINGFIELD DIRECTED BY: ASHTON THOMAS  
**IN THE GARDEN** BY: MCKINLEY FRIESEN DIRECTED BY: EMMA BLANCO  
**THE WALL?** BY: KENNADI THOMAS DIRECTED BY: HEIDI HAYS  
**THEY'RE HERE** BY: KAILEY RONDO DIRECTED BY: KAILEY MARTIN  
**BENCHED** BY: ALAYNA SYKOSKY DIRECTED BY: MCKINLEY FRIESEN  
**THE TRUTH ABOUT JAIPUR** BY: HEIDI HAYS DIRECTED BY: JACOB GRIMMER  
**THE ESCAPE** BY: KOBLYN THOMAS DIRECTED BY: KAILEY RONDO

**\$5** MARCH 9-10-11 @ 7:00PM IN THE KEN COLLINS THEATER

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## Celt rapper takes top spot among McNary talent

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

Senior Giancarlo Marcelo bested nine singers, a dancing trio, two beatboxers, a standup comedian and another rapper to win the 2017 McNary High School Talent Show on Friday, Feb. 24.

"I spent a long time preparing for this and just making music so it's really cool to share it with people and for them to show me their appreciation," said Marcelo, who began rapping in middle school but became more serious when he got to high school.

Marcelo, who received \$100 for first place, said he wrote the song he performed in the talent show in just an hour a couple days after a loved one died. One of the lines is "I wrote this song the day after my homie died, locked inside my room in the darkness."

"It was flowing," Marcelo said. "I was in the zone when I wrote that. That's a huge song for me. It means a lot to me."

Marcelo, who takes notes on his phone when he thinks of a funny line or word he can turn into a rap, said he's



Giancarlo Marcelo performs at the annual McNary High School Talent Show in February. KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

inspired by "anything and everything."

"A lot of things inspire me," Marcelo said. "My main motivation would have to be my family, for sure. I like a variety of music."

Marcelo has seven songs on his SoundCloud and plans to continue to make music after high school.

"I like the feeling, I like being on stage. It's awesome," he said.

But Marcelo also has bigger plans.

"I want to be the first one in my family to go to college," he said.

Yasmin Bresino, joined by friends Millie Meier and Aspen Searls, danced their way to second place. Beatboxer Tyler McVay was third and Simone Shoemaker, singing and playing *I'm Yours* by Jason Mraz on the ukulele, won the audience choice award.

## Made at McNary

Drama fest is written, directed and acted by students

By DEREK WILEY  
Of the Keizertimes

For the first time, the McNary One Act Festival will feature a short film.

Along with six student written, directed and acted plays, senior Ashton Thomas has turned *APEX*, a script by Braden Bedingfield intended for the stage, into a movie.

"My passion is really filmmaking and (I thought) if I can find something that could easily be translated into the film world, then I would love to take on that challenge," Thomas said. "Then when I read Braden's script, it was great and I thought that I could totally see it as a film. I just started and now that it's coming to a close, I'm happy that I did."

The One Act Festival began Thursday, March 9 and continues Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Ken Collins Theater. Tickets are \$5 and on sale at <https://mcnaryhs.ticketleap.com>.

The film, starring Tyler Anderson and Hannah Collee, tells the story of a man tasked with monitoring a woman for three years. Since the woman is stuck in a room, the man's only companion is an artificial intelligence module named *APEX Seven*.

After graduating from McNary, Thomas plans to go to film school. He's already been accepted to five programs, including Biola University and Azusa Pacific in California.

"I've definitely learned a lot," Thomas said. "It's been a blast. I've had so much fun

making it. There's been so many cool people that I've got to work with."

Thomas chose *APEX* from 23 scripts written by McNary students in drama director Dallas Myers' playwriting class.

"There were some (scripts) that didn't get picked this year that were just incredible," Myers said. "I had a real good crop in playwriting this year, unreal kids. They're all so creative."

Thomas and six others took part in a directing class with Myers.

"It's a really good learning process for them," Myers said. "They had a book to read and then we did some exercises in class, very minimal and then they just get tossed into the fire, here you go, you've got to do it, and every time they've risen."

The directors also cast their shows.

"It teaches the kids how much it takes," Myers said. "My favorite part is always casting because I talk to them every time about how I hate casting because I have to see them the next day, sad, sad faces. They go through the same emotions. It's a good learning experience."

Three of the directors, McKinley Friesen, Heidi Hays and Kailey Rondo, also had scripts chosen.

Friesen is directing *Benched*,

a script by Alayna Sykosky starring Jordyn Maret, Kendall Tacchini and Zachery Sell about a girl trapped in a long-term relationship, who gets advice from an old lady she meets in a park.

"I think it's very realistic and it's honest and it's important for high schoolers to see a relationship like that and what's best for the people in it," said Friesen, whose play *In the Garden*, a modern day version Adam and Eve, is being directed by Emma Blanco. It stars Wocus Gibbons, Steven Cummings, Anni Sykosky and Noah Schnell.

All of the shows have freshmen and sophomore actors.

Senior Jacob Grimmer, who is directing Hays' piece *The Truth About Jaipur*, found the experience harder than he expected.

"It's really interesting because I've been directed by Mr. Myers a lot," said Grimmer, who was recently in *Defying Gravity* and *The Addams Family* musical. "I thought if he can do it, I'm sure I can handle it. There's only two actors. But it's so hard. I have to run a scene and block it. If I don't like how it looks, I have to change it. If they're not quite memorized and one of them can't make a rehearsal, then I have to change things."

"There's only two actors. But it's so hard."

— Jacob Grimmer

## CERT classes begin in April

Keizer's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is offering training for new CERT members in April.

The four-day course will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 8-9, April 22 and April 29. All classes will be held in the community room at the Keizer Fire District at 661 Chemawa Rd. N.E. Students must attend all four of the classes in the course.

The course is free, appropriate for ages 14 and up,

and all materials are provided. There is no requirement that you join a CERT Team upon completion.

During the course attendees learn about risk factors and natural hazards both locally and across Oregon while learning how to help the community both prepare for, and recover from, natural disasters. The course modules will include such topics as light fire suppression and HAZMAT awareness and reporting, mass patient triage, radio commu-

nications, disaster psychology and more.

There is a maximum of 40 spaces for the April course. Register at [bit.ly/2mPeN4l](http://bit.ly/2mPeN4l) to reserve a spot.

Contact Linda Pantaloon [keizer@comcast.net](mailto:keizer@comcast.net) with questions.

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