

McNary One Act Festival Jan. 18-20

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary senior Grace Condello earned a nickname during *The Wizard of Oz*—Director Grace.

While Condello, who had a bad habit of accidentally telling her castmates what to do on stage, has never directed a show before, it has been a natural fit.

Condello is one of 12 student directors participating in the McNary One Act Festival this year.

“I’m naturally a director personality,” she said. “It’s been really fun. I loved getting to be a part of the casting process and pick the people who I thought would fit the roles and being involved in the whole process of the show.”

The festival, which features 10 original one act plays, runs Jan. 18-20 at 7 p.m. in the Ken Collins Theater.

Tickets are \$5 and available at the McNary box office each night beginning at 6:30.

The directors, four of which are co-directing on two one acts, had more than 20 student written scripts from which to choose.

“I felt really bad because some of them were so creative and so out of the box but it would be so incredibly difficult to do it,” said Saige Baldwin, who is one of three McNary students directing her own script.

“Baldwin’s one act, *Stay*, is a love story between two teenagers—a boy who wants to join the military but his girlfriend wants him to stay.

Baldwin was thinking about the draft during the Vietnam war and her own friend who recently left for the Marines when she wrote the script.

“I have people in my life who kind of have this scenario so I wanted to maybe bring that to life and show people some things are worth staying for and some things are worth leaving for,” Baldwin said. “They fight whether it’s better to protect them here or protect them out there.”

Since Baldwin is in McNary’s technical theatre class, she’s also building her own set.

Kennadi Thomas and Abrianna Feinauer also wrote and are directing their plays—*Vin and I* and *Just Another Average Play*.

McNary drama director Tom Cavanaugh encouraged the students who wanted to both write and direct.

“In the past when I did one acts at my previous school, the kids who wrote their own were way more excited and fired up to do their piece than the kids who picked someone else’s,” Cavanaugh said.

Condello received one of the more popular pieces—*The InBetween* by Kaitlyn Duncan-son, which tells the story of a girl named Finley, who is in a coma and meets two characters, life and death, who try to convince her whether to live



McNary students, front to back, Abrianna Feinauer, Rachel Herriges, Ivy Parker, Grace Condello, Saige Baldwin, Madelyn Hurst, Bella Fox, Jacob Fritts, Kennadi Thomas, Connor McCormack and not pictured Jonas Honeyman and Rose Nason are directing 10 original one act plays on Jan. 18-20.

or die.

“It’s a really great script,” Condello said. “She (Duncan-son) did an amazing job on it. I loved it. I fought for it.”

Both Condello and Baldwin have learned a lot.

“There’s so many things that you have to keep track of as a director, lights and cues and you have to write in everything in your script and make sure you have costumes and props,” Condello said.

Sydney Gould wrote two scripts, *Inside, Outside and Everywhere in Between*, directed by Bella Fox, and *Stuck in Traffic*, directed by Ivy Parker.

The festival also includes *The Golden Crane*, written by Michael Hitchcock and directed by Jonas Honeyman and Madelyn Hurst; *Fear is a Four Letter Word*, written by Jordan Sheldon and directed by Rachel Herriges and Jacob Fritts; *Fitzcarraldo*, written by Wocus Gibbons and directed by Rose Nason; and *Odd School High: Anti-Love Project*, written by Jaden Elders and directed by Connor McCormack.

Fifty actors, who each auditioned for the directors, are participating.

The One Act Festival con-

tinues to grow at McNary after having seven original student directed and written plays the past two years.

“A lot of kids wanted to

experience what directing was like,” Cavanaugh said.

“That’s why there are so many. How many directors we have interested, that’s how

many shows we’re going to do. I just think it’s a chance to do something totally original. The kids get really fired up for it.”

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