

Fourteen students were recently awarded the Nenij Memorial Aur Scholarships from President Hilda Heine, bringing the total of these scholarships being awarded to 26.

Music Man was a hilarious journey

PAMELA PERKINS

As always, the Youth Bridge Global/RMI Ministry of Education/Marshall Islands High School musical production was an amazing experience. Students of elementary through college age worked diligently since early 2019 to entertain us at the level we have come to expect: success again! The Music Man was wonderful! The opening scene with the traveling salesmen on a train established that we were in for a glorious, hilarious journey!

Let's start with the Ensemble. The choreography was enchanting. Every participant demonstrated his/her passion for the role; although most of the dancing was in groups, each dancer stood out in his/her own way. When "Professor" Hill and his shady accomplice shared a dance, one saw how delighted they are with themselves and their evil ways while Harold and Marian's dancing is more personal and romantic of course.

There are too many delightful performances to name each individual, but Jobod Silk and Duke Gaston are masterful throughout the many manifestations of Harold Hills' personal development. Ikue Alik and Carnie Reimers are terrific actresses who interpret their roles as prim librarian Marian Paroo as a caring, lovely young woman with elements of determination and grace. Both Mayors Shinn, Jiro Sam and Allira Samson, own the role — differently but equally delightfully. Yolanie Jurelang and Aliciya Ackley alternate as Mrs. Paroo and Mrs. Shinn, and each is fabulous.

Having been announced in advance via the Journal how delightful the Barbershop Quartet would be, all expectations were met and exceeded. The four young men need to continue with this newfound talent and entertain us whenever there is an opportunity. "Lida Rose" was particularly memorable, and their playfulness throughout the evening was an important part of their contribution to the whole event.

It goes without saying that the music in Music Man was delightful. Throughout the evening, the music told much of the story, and the actual marching band topped it off at the end. For those of us who are getting along in years, those songs bring back familiar memories.

Professor Andrew Garrod, you have done it again with the help of Bonny Taggart, Tyler Malbreaux, Summer Cody, Nina Roy, Tommy Kabua, Alson Kelen, and the entire team. Everyone in the production team worked miracles as they helped the multi-talented actors of all ages achieve the high level (close to perfection) that they have all reached. The sets provided the perfect background for all of the shenanigans, starting off with the jiggly train ride and continuing to support the action throughout the various scenes.





Above, The Music Man cast dances to the song 'Oklahoma Stubborn'. Left, volunteer makeup artist Kristina Reimers works on Wilmer Joel's face backstage. Below, happy cast members pose for Hilary Hosia's camera backstage.



14 students awarded the Aur scholarship

President Hilda Heine awarded 14 students from the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) with the Nenij Memorial Aur Scholarship at the Cabinet Conference Room earlier this month.

As a requirement of the program, students must attend CMI and be from Aur. This year, 14 out of 22 applicants received the scholarship. This is the highest number of applicants since the scholarship program was first established.

The Nenij Memorial Aur Scholarship program, which began in 2015, has now awarded funding support to 26 CMI students. Five of the awardees have now obtained their degree and are currently employed.

President Heine expressed her appreciation to CMI President Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono and Dean of Student Services Rachel Salomon for their assistance. She said education is something that is kept forever and can never be taken away. She conveyed her understanding the financial struggles students face in college and hopes the scholarship will help ease the burden.

"There are times we need a little bit of help which is why investment in education is really important," she stated.

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SUDOKU

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

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