

Encore!

Diamond Head Theatre

August 2017
Volume 102 • Issue 3

Inside This Issue

Follow That Dream	1
Aloha from Deena	2
Stars Align at Spring Showcase	3
Seven Weeks to Stage Ready	4
We're All in This Together	5
One Performance Only!	6
'Tlima Awards 2017	8



Danny Kim (front row, on right) in *All Shook Up*

Follow That Dream

Banker Danny Kim Recounts His Journey to the Stage

Longtime banker Danny Kim had always secretly dreamed of performing onstage. In high school, Danny auditioned for both band and chorale—but when he wasn't selected for either one, he gave up on auditioning and tucked the idea of performing away. When he became a parent, he encouraged his own children to try out for anything that interested them, urging them to “go for it and give it your best, because you never want to regret not trying.” Privately, however, he knew he wasn't walking the talk.

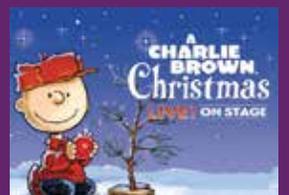
This past spring Danny found himself taking a class with Linda Lockwood, who happened to mention how excited she was to be involved in the production of *All Shook Up* at Diamond Head Theatre. After hearing her talk about the joys of the experience, Danny couldn't help but confess his secret. But when she tried to persuade him to audition for the show, he laughed it off. A few weeks later, over cocktails, Linda again pushed him to take the plunge. Bolstered by “liquid courage,” Danny finally agreed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Coming Soon



Sept. 22 - Oct. 15, 2017



Dec. 1 - 23, 2017



Jan. 26 - Feb. 11, 2018

For Tickets
Call 808.733.0274 or visit
www.diamondheadtheatre.com



Aloha 2 from DHT's Executive Director

My husband and I recently returned from a bike and boat trip in North Holland. It was fabulous: flat, rural bike paths, charming seaport towns and the chance to be on the water, both in the canals and on the open sea.

Our Dutch tour guide, Margaret, was amazing—in her 50s, athletic, strong and always smiling. She told me her story along the way. Widowed 20 years ago, she chose to become a bike tour guide and does it year-round, with back-to-back trips in the Netherlands when the weather's seasonable and in Asia during the winter months. When I expressed my amazement at her fortitude (she greets 70 to 80 people from all over the world each week and shepherds



I was impressed with her unflinching cheerful outlook and thought ruefully of my guiding efforts during our annual weeklong Broadway Bound Tour to NYC, and how less than chipper I am on some of our early morning excursions. Time for an attitude adjustment! I'll be channeling Margaret this November.

Speaking of autumn, lots of exciting things are coming up at DHT. I can't wait for *Ragtime*—it's one of my very favorite musicals. We're already assembling a topnotch cast, with mainland guest artists coming in to play the key roles of Coalhouse Walker and Sarah. If you weren't around for our 2003 production, you'll be glad you're a subscriber in 2017. This'll be a blockbuster.

them through the entire week of biking and touring), she replied that it was a great life and that she loves meeting new people.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* 'Ilima Awards, DHT's signature fundraiser, will follow in October. Maybe you've always wondered about this event and never acted on it. You should! It's the best fundraiser in town. Unlike most ballroom events, we hold the cocktail party right here on our beautifully decorated grounds. Imagine dancing under the stars, tasting award-winning bites from more than 20 Island restaurants, sampling ice-cold beer and martinis, and much more. Sound good? Call Kathy for more information at 733-0277 x315.

Then before you know it, it'll be November, and I'll be test-driving my "new attitude" in NYC. Our Broadway Bound tour is already sold out for this year, but please keep us in mind for 2018. We make the journey every year around Veterans Day.

Enjoy your remaining days of summer, and we'll see you at *Ragtime*!

Stars Align at DHT's Spring Showcase



The big finale: "Our Favorite Son"

It's been a busy year for Diamond Head Theatre's Shooting Stars. In addition to their usual community performances, the Stars, under the direction of John Rampage, stepped up to the challenge of putting on a Spring Showcase as well. On May 30, nearly 40 Shooting Stars plus Stars alumni performed 21 show-stopping numbers in front of a very enthusiastic crowd of family, friends and fans. The musical selections ranged from big group numbers to solos and duets, all of which kept the audience cheering.

The Showcase was pulled together rapidly—a testament to the Stars' talent and professionalism. Those

who wanted to perform a solo had to audition with a number they themselves chose, and it had to be "performance ready"; in other words, songs needed to already be choreographed and practiced. Some of the performances featured full dance numbers choreographed by the Stars themselves. Shooting Star Luke Ellis went all out, switching gears to play piano and sing "The Lady Is a Tramp" with Emily Maldonado in the style of Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga.

Another memorable moment was when 17 Shooting Stars alumni performed "I've Got Rhythm." The performers, some of whom were Stars back in the 1990s, dusted

off their showbiz skills, returned to the stage and blew the crowd away. Some still live on Oahu, but others were home for summer break or



The Stars perform "Disney Dazzle"

vacation. One former Star, Michael Bingham, flew in the day before the performance and jumped right in. The alumni also joined the current Stars for the last number of the night, the long-standing traditional finale, "Our Favorite Son," from the musical *Will Rogers Follies*.

Proceeds from the Spring Showcase will help offset the cost of the Shooting Stars' Spring Break trip to New York City in 2018. Bravo, Stars, on a great night! 🎭



The Shooting Stars alumni, performing "I've Got Rhythm"

Encore! is published by Diamond Head Theatre, 520 Makapuu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816.

Phone (808)733-0277
Facsimile (808)735-1250
Box Office (808)733-0274
www.diamondheadtheatre.com

Writers Mary Calantoc and Deena Dray
Editor Stacy Pope
Graphic Designer Bernie Kim
Coordinator Mary Calantoc

Our Mission Statement

Established in 1915, Diamond Head Theatre is the Broadway of the Pacific, producing the best live community theatre entertainment and advancing the theatre arts through education in Hawaii.



Students work with guest artist Andrew Sakaguchi.

Seven Weeks to Stage Ready

Musical Theatre Experience Summer Program Puts Kids in the Spotlight

Every summer, DHT is full of enthusiastic kids and teens who've signed up for our Musical Theatre Experience (MTE) program. In past issues of *Encore* we've featured photos of their end-of-program performance, which showcases the product of seven weeks of work. But what happens during those seven weeks to get them performance ready?

4

Our preparation for those seven critical summer weeks actually begins in January, when Program Director Natalie Uehara assembles her team. The MTE staff then selects three shows DHT is performing that season and condenses them into a 90-minute production. Throughout the spring, the MTE staff, along with Education Manager Mary Calantoc, is busy with activities such as hiring interns and conducting scholarship interviews. The interns are kept very busy, helping

to assemble binders, create nametags and clean the rehearsal hall.

When the program kicks off in June, students jump right in. In the first week, they practice an audition song, monologue and choreography. They're also given their scripts and take an audition workshop with DHT Artistic Director John Rampage, who teaches them the components of an outstanding audition. Every student will audition for MTE instructors, who then begin casting that final show. One very important aspect of the summer program is that every student is expected to participate in the production. Although MTE doesn't require any previous theatre experience, each and every one of the students in the program will have a moment in the spotlight.

Throughout the rest of the program, students are busy learning and rehearsing the show. They're also introduced to a variety of guest artists. This summer, students were able to work with Andrew Sakaguchi, director and choreographer of *The Little Mermaid*. Over the years we've held workshops on dancing, singing, acting, puppetry, improvisation and more, which have been incredible learning opportunities as well as lots of fun.

In addition, MTE students attend a dress rehearsal of DHT's summer show so they can see firsthand what a main stage production looks like up close. For many of the kids, this is their first exposure to a large-scale musical—and they're usually blown away. It also gives them the inspiration they need to get onstage themselves and perform.

While the kids are busy rehearsing, one of the biggest jobs is being done behind the scenes. MTE is lucky to have the talent and time of our DHT volunteer super-family, Jill and Keith Wakabayashi and their daughters Kami and Jayla. The Wakabayashis volunteer countless hours each year to assemble the props, costume pieces and sometimes even set pieces for all 87 participants in the final MTE show. They manage to do the work even though all four of them have day jobs. Their efforts help create an authentic performance experience for our students, and we couldn't begin to thank them enough for all they do.

The weeks of MTE fly by. When the program reaches its end, we can barely believe it went that quickly. Following so much preparation and hard work on all sides, nothing beats being able to sit and watch those students onstage, doing things that seven weeks earlier many of them wouldn't have believed they could do. It's incredibly thrilling and rewarding to see their progress and confidence. Then, in a few short months, it's time begin the whole process over again! 🎭



A tech rehearsal takes place onstage.



Randy and Joey (at right) with fellow board member Carolyn Berry Wilson, Dave Wilson and John Rampage

We're All in This Together

Producer's Club Members Randy and Joey Harris on Why They Give

Twelve years ago, Randy and Joey Harris were invited to their very first performance at Diamond Head Theatre by friends Bill and Pat Dixon. They were hooked on DHT from that moment and ardent fans ever since. As well as regularly attending shows, Randy and Joey also became donors as members of our Producer's Club. "We learned early on that the quality is unsurpassed at Diamond Head Theatre," says Randy.

Why have Randy and Joey embraced DHT so wholeheartedly? For one thing, they're passionate about their community. They believe DHT's a positive influence on audience members, who come from all over the island to be inspired and entertained, and on students, who come to the theatre for the chance to experience the joys of singing, dancing, acting and more.

In fact, the variety of programs and opportunities we offer for students from all walks of life is one of their favorite DHT features. They're inspired by the talent of our keiki—and by the dedicated parents that support them. "I'm amazed by the commitment of the parents as well as the level of excitement they feel for their kids," says Joey. "Getting your child into the

Shooting Stars is like getting them into a great school!"

Randy adds they also love that at DHT "we don't just teach these kids to perform. We teach them time management, self-reliance and teamwork." They share in the pride we feel for the students who've grown up at DHT and gone on to do great things. "The DNA of DHT reaches around the world," says Randy.

Randy and Joey also recognize the level of teamwork it takes to run a thriving theatre. They know that each person counts, from actors and staff

Joey checking in volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic



to volunteers. "The whole is stronger than its parts," says Randy. As a Board Member, Joey volunteers every year at our annual Volunteer Picnic so she can personally thank all of our volunteers for their service to an organization she loves so much.

Although they've been donors for years, Randy and Joey feel that more than ever, this is an ideal time to support DHT. "There's an energy with DHT right now," notes Randy. One reason is the once-in-a-lifetime chance to leave a legacy. "With the hope of a new building," he adds, "it's the perfect opportunity to make an impact that you'll see in your own lifetime—and that's not something many people have the chance to do."



Joey with the Petersons at DHT's season announcement reception

Thank you, Randy and Joey Harris, for your unwavering support and community spirit! You help to make DHT a more wonderful place, and we're so grateful to have you in our family. 🍻



One Performance Only!

Staging a Graduation Ceremony for All Shook Up

Cast Member Korynn Grenert

6

Performing in a DHT production is an amazing experience, but it also requires a great deal of time and energy to create and present the final product. Our casts and crews give up a lot to be involved in a show. We're pretty sure they'd all say it's worth it, but recently one young woman made what seemed, even to us, a big sacrifice.

When Punahou student Korynn Grenert auditioned for *All Shook Up*, she realized that if she were cast, she'd end up missing her own high school graduation ceremony. Upon learning that she'd landed a role, she chose to be in the show.

As the day of Korynn's graduation approached, Stage Manager Ahnya Chang and Costume Designer Karen Wolfe decided to hold a surprise graduation ceremony right here at DHT to celebrate this dedicated young performer. The two masterminds enlisted the help of the entire cast and crew, as well as special

guests such as Korynn's family and retired Punahou Dean Tom Metcalf (who also happens to be Karen's father). They even created a ceremony program for all the attendees, procured Korynn's holoku from her mother and picked plumerias on the Punahou campus for the event.

After the June 3 matinee performance of *All Shook Up*, Korynn went downstairs to eat with the rest of the cast. Meanwhile, Ahnya, Karen and other helpers hurriedly decorated the stage in preparation. A few cast members were then drafted to blindfold Korynn and help her climb into a "different costume." Although willing to change into what turned out to be her own holoku, Korynn still had no idea what was going on.

Korynn was then guided down to the theatre lobby, where they removed her blindfold. As Musical Director Ike Webster played the traditional graduation ceremony music, "Pomp

and Circumstance," a surprised and joyful Korynn was escorted down the aisle toward the stage for her graduation moment.

The audience of about 50 people included the entire cast and crew of the show, plus Korynn's parents, brother and godmother. Diamond Head Theatre's John Rampage delivered opening remarks and introduced Tom Metcalf, who performed a brief ceremony. Following the mock presentation of a diploma, everyone joined in the singing of the Punahou school song, "Oahu a," followed by the school cheer. It was just like a real graduation—and Korynn soon had lei stacked up to her eyebrows.

Diamond Head Theatre casts and crews really become like family during show rehearsals and performances, and this group was no exception. They knew Korynn had given up participating in her big day to fulfill the commitment of being in the show, and they wanted to show their love and appreciation. It turns out Korynn had her big day after all—and one none of us will soon forget. [M](#)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A few days later Danny found himself at Diamond Head Theatre for auditions. He remembers looking around the room and feeling like a fish out of water. He began to fill out an audition sheet then realized with horror that, with no acting experience whatsoever, he'd have to leave it virtually blank. At that moment he almost walked out the door, until "a little voice whispered to just go for it," he says. He decided to just have fun with it when his turn came. When at last he sang his first note, amazingly, all of his nervousness faded away.

He laughs when he thinks back on that audition. "The only song I'd memorized was 'Kiss the Girl' from *The Little Mermaid*," he says, "and the only dance moves I knew were 'the robot' and random disco steps from *Saturday Night Fever*." But he left feeling proud of himself for overcoming the fear of doing something so far out of his comfort zone.

To his astonishment and delight, Danny ended up landing a role in the ensemble of *All Shook Up*. At first,

Danny hugs his wife after the show.



Danny's kids are proud of their dad.

his family and friends were alarmed when he told them what he'd gotten himself into. "Some jokingly asked if I was feeling okay," he chuckles. After the initial shock wore off, however, everyone was extremely excited and supportive.

Once rehearsals began, he became deeply inspired by the energy and passion of his fellow cast members and their level of support for each other. He recalls that one night after a long rehearsal, fellow cast member (and fellow banker) Dwayne Sakaguchi asked if anyone was willing to stay later to practice the dance steps. Everyone stayed. "Everyone else but me seemed to have the moves down," says Danny, "but they were willing to practice and help until we all got it."

Danny learned a ton about theatre throughout the rehearsal process—including about theatre traditions and superstitions. "It was opening weekend," he says, "and, still trying to learn the theatre lingo, I shouted, 'Good luck!' to one of my fellow ensemble guys. He corrected me, saying it was bad luck to say 'good

luck' in theatre. So, I tried something else: 'Break a leg!' And I was corrected again—dancers never say 'break a leg.' So then I jokingly said, 'Okay, break a face!' Well, during the opening number, one of my fellow cast members was accidentally kicked in the head! After that, I wasn't allowed to give anyone good wishes."

When asked if he would ever consider being in another production at DHT, Danny says, "The experience was so unbelievable that I almost want to leave it at that, as nothing could top my very first show. However, I'd consider coming out again if I could audition with my daughter. That'd be the ultimate dream." Danny says his son has also caught the theatre bug and is considering auditioning.

As to the overall experience, he says, "This has really made me believe that anything is possible, as long as you're willing to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. We sang a song in the show with the lyrics 'follow that dream, wherever that dream may lead.' With a little nudge, I was able to do just that." ■





Diamond
Head
Theatre

520 Makapuu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

HONOLULU, HAWAII

PERMIT NO. 260

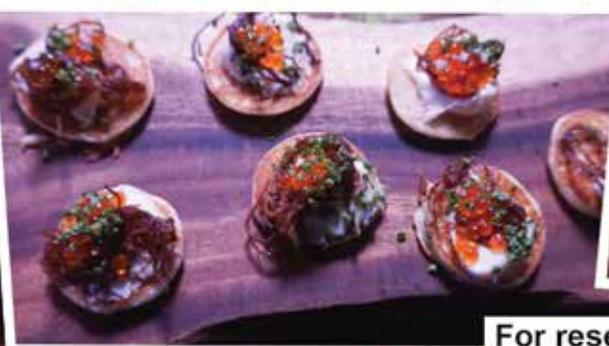
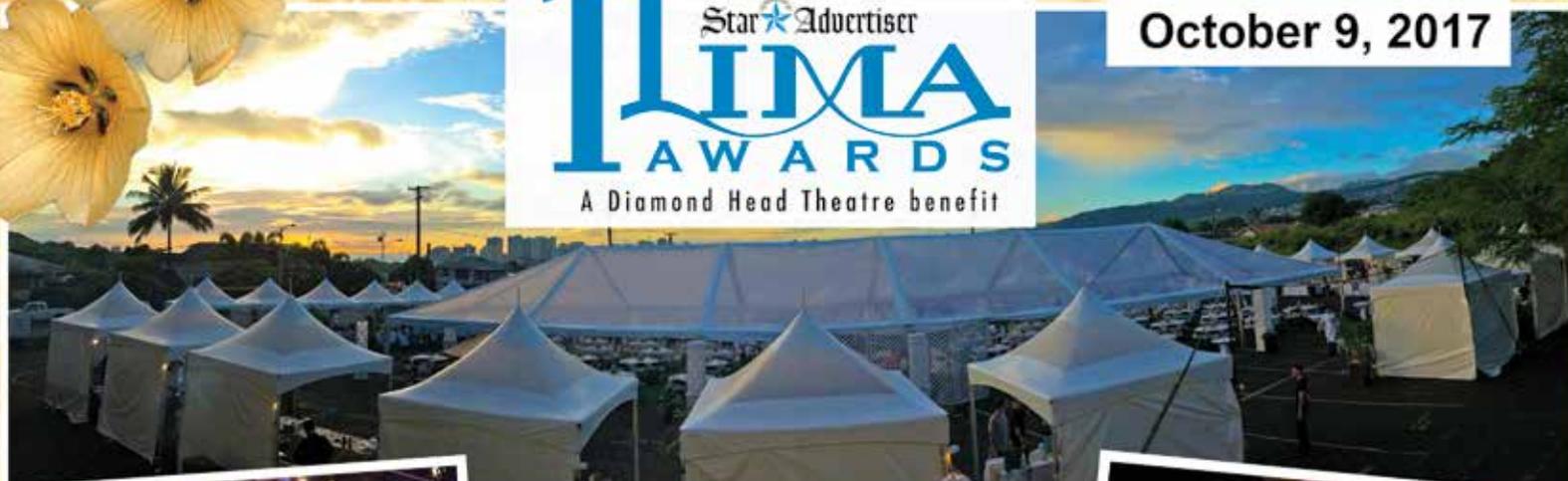
8



22ND ANNUAL
Star Advertiser
LIMA
AWARDS
A Diamond Head Theatre benefit

Join Us!

October 9, 2017



**For reservations or more information:
Call 733-0277 x305**