



MAD SCIENCE PRESENTS STAR TREK LIVE

By: Samantha Salerno - Grade 7, Woodbury Middle School

On my visit to the Palace Theater, I was amazed about how much I had learned on the tour. Many things surprised me such as the architecture and the history. I had no idea about the refurbishing, and how many famous people perform there every year. It was very informal and a great learning experience.

The play I went to see was *Star Trek: Live*. I loved how it involved the other schools in the crowd, so that they and the performers could interact in a fun and entertaining way. I also enjoyed many of the jokes that they made, including one about Justin Bieber, which made most of the audience double over in a fit of laughter. Not only was it an entertaining performance it was also a very good learning experience. We learned things about space, space shuttles and modern day technologies that I did not previously know much about.

After the show I got a chance to interview the performers and it was very interesting. They told us about their experiences on the road and some of the things that they enjoyed most about theatre. One of the actors, who played an astronaut, had told me that he had never wanted to be an actor. He said that his parents had made him, but he turned out loving it. It just goes to show you that you never know if you like something until you try it.

Overall I found this experience not only very informative, but also very fun. I would recommend this program to someone else so that they could also have an amazing experience like the one that I had.

STAR TREK LIVE

By: Baron Strasburger – Grade 8, Woodbury Middle School

On February 23, students from Woodbury Middle School went to the Palace Theatre in Waterbury to see “Star Trek Live”. Luckily, I was able to leave school early in order to tour the theatre before the show. The theatre was full and the audience seemed to enjoy the show. After the show, I was able to meet the cast and ask them questions.

The Palace Theatre first opened in 1922. It is a beautiful place with amazing architecture and fascinating antiques. All around were plaster sculptures covered in gold leaf. Some of the oldest things I saw were the original box office and the original marble flooring. I learned that a river flows underneath the theatre and it had to be moved so the Orchestra Pit could be made. When the theatre opened it showed silent movies and Vaudeville acts. Today Broadway shows and musical acts are common.

The reason our school went to the palace was to be entertained and to learn some science. The interactive play, “Star Trek Live” met both of these expectations. It used footage from “Star Trek” films and other science programs to create a realistic atmosphere. Students from the audience were brought on stage to help with the storyline. The overall mood satisfied “Star Trek” fans and those who came just for a good show.

After the performance I went backstage and met with the two main actors, Teresa Noon and Trevor Pease. They talked about how each play is different because the audience gives a different response each time. I asked them what they enjoyed the most about the show and they both said the audience participation. The actress who played the Vulcan character said the hardest part of the show was training her fingers to hold separate for the Vulcan greeting. She could not do it naturally. I had a great time during my trip to the Palace and hope to go again soon.

MAD SCIENCE PRESENTS STAR TREK LIVE

By: Grace Porrazzo - Grade 6, Woodbury Middle School

My experience seeing Star Trek Live is one I'll never forget. It was full of space action that would make you feel like you were training to float through the star dotted blackness from a rocket! If you're interested in learning about space and laughing at the humor of this show, I recommend it to anyone!

Star Trek Live took place at the magnificent Palace Theater, which is so beautiful. The theater is completed with beautiful gold domes on the ceiling, accompanied by ancient carvings of angels. You will see dazzling gold chandeliers with shimmering crystals gleaming in the light. The stairs are a smooth marble, with the walls painted to match. The artists who painted them carved their name in the railing to leave their autographs. The grand lobby was built to make visitors feel special.

The inside of the theater is just as beautiful as the lobby. There is another gold dome with ancient gold carvings. Rows of fine red, comfortable seats stand like soldiers waiting for someone to sit. Just below the front seats is the orchestra pit, where music swells in the air to the audience!

The audience lets out an explosion of cheer as the curtains close to end the show. Smiles stay painted on the faces of the audience as they begin to file out. This show had me laugh and smile all through it. It was very well played and had a good mix of humor along with interesting facts about space! You are a regular kid ready to take on the training of a space hero. I definitely recommend this play for anyone. I enjoyed this space adventure.

We learned fun facts about the theater. There used to be a wide, rushing river that ran under the theater. It was called the Mad River. It was rerouted to for the orchestra pit. We also learned about a light left on stage to keep the ghost of bad spirits away. It is called the "ghost light". There are some superstitions that ghosts creep around the theater. Do you believe it?

Thanks to tour guide Karen Streeter, I was able to walk though the theater and learn about it, while admiring its art. We went inside one dressing room, which had a mirror sitting above a counter, a small bathroom and a small set of lockers. Besides the dressing rooms, there was a hallway I found interesting. Every show performed at the Palace, has a posted painting in this hallway. Every actor from each of these shows, signs his or her name on the painting. We saw the 'green room' where the actors relax and eat and the sewing room where costumes are mended. My experience touring the Palace is one I will never forget!

STAR TREK LIVE

By: Anastasia Schneider - Grade 8, Woodbury Middle School

On January 23, the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise took to the Palace Theatre stage in the production of "Star Trek Live." Being a fan of *Star Trek*, I was excited to attend this program. When I was invited to serve as my school's representative and write about my experience, I was thrilled. Not only would I be able to visit backstage and meet with the cast but I was also going to participate in a tour of the magnificent 89 year-old building.

The construction of the Palace Theatre began in 1920 and took 2 years to complete. The theatre officially opened its doors in 1922. Over the course of seventy years, people came to enjoy silent movies, vaudeville performances, concerts, films and more. Eventually the Palace fell to disrepair and in 1987, closed to the public. Eighteen years later and after a significant renovation, the Palace opened its doors once again. The Grand Lobby was designed and built to make everyone feel as if they were walking into a spectacular palace. Today, the original floor, stairs, and mirrors have been restored to their 1922 splendor. The lobby walls are painted to resemble marble, thanks to two artists' amazing talent. If you haven't been to the Palace yet, I strongly recommend you do. You'll never forget the experience of walking through the lobby and entering the theatre.

After our tour, we settled down to enjoy the entertaining performance of "Star Trek Live". It was well done, often hilarious and packed with references from the original show. At the end of the performance, we were able to meet and talk with the cast backstage. Commander Sean Christopher was played by the talented Trevor Pease, whereas Voula was portrayed by the skillful Theresa Noone. Both are natives of Canada, where they first learned to act. Ms. Noone has been acting for 22 years and Mr. Pease has been acting for 7 years. Although Mr. Pease acted the part of Commander Christopher, he had never watched *Star Trek* before he was cast. All the same, he learned a lot about the show while on set, but still does not consider himself a "Trekkie." As for Ms. Noone, she was most excited to play an alien. When asked whether they feel nervous on stage, Ms. Noone said she feels mostly excitement and anticipation and Mr. Pease feels that at this point of his career he has enough experience to feel comfortable. Even so, Mr. Pease thinks that it is only human for someone to experience some level of anxiety prior to going on stage.

Both Ms. Noone and Mr. Pease were very gracious and generous. They spent a lot of time answering our questions and explaining different aspects of acting. For example, Ms. Noone explained how the life of an actor may appear glamorous but in reality, it asks for sacrifices. While working with Star Trek Live, they often find themselves in a different city every other day. They don't get to spend too much time with their family and friends.

I'm extremely grateful to have been part of the Palatial News Journalism Program. It was a fun and enriching experience. I would like to thank our tour guide who made the tour so interesting and informative. I will always remember the fun facts she shared with us like how there is always a light on on stage even when no one is there. This is done to protect the stage from unwanted and negative spirits.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON - PALACE THEATRE

By: Kira DeSimone - Grade 7, Woodbury Middle School

On February 23, 2011, students from many schools, including Woodbury Middle School, watched the Star Trek Live Mad Science. This production took place at the Palace theatre in Waterbury. When the theatre was opened in 1922, it cost 18[¢] to see a silent film. The snacks for the movies were under the stairs. There is now a closed off doorway showing where the snacks used to be. The two chandeliers in the lobby cost \$5,000, but now they are priceless. The dome on the ceiling has 60,000 square feet of gold leafing. In the 1980's it was restored to its original glory, but the stairs and hand painted walls that look like marble are all original.

The play involved aspects of the shows and movies of Star Trek. The main characters in the play were a woman Vulcan played by Theresa Noon, and a human commander played by Trevor Pease. Both of the actors were from near Toronto, Canada. Trevor Pease had never watched Star Trek until he was hired. He grew up watching Star Wars.

In the beginning the audience was at a "Star Fleet Academy." But then a woman Vulcan who traveled back in time from the future interrupted the orientation. What followed was the Vulcan had to prove she was an alien. But they had a problem. A Romulan Captain who wanted the "core" was terrorizing them. The "core" is someone who will advance human technology at an alarming rate. Without it human kind wouldn't be able to travel through space. During the production the two characters ask for assistance from the audience to take part in little experiments to show what can happen in space. For example, they used a laser to pop a balloon and used pressured air to break through a thin piece of metal. To pop the balloon the Commander counted down from three as Austin Bauer, a student from Woodbury Middle School in Woodbury, CT, moved the laser closer and closer to the balloon. Then he held it on the balloon until it popped. Next to break through the metal a little boy tried to break through it with a flashlight, but he could not do it. Then they put the

flashlight into a tube, and when they let the air through, it pushed the flashlight out and through the metal.

Towards the end of the show, tribbles, an invasive species, took over the Star Fleet Academy. They blew tribbles out into the audience. To defeat the Romulans they planted tribbles in the Romulan ship and they reproduced rapidly so they took over his ship.

The “core” ended up being a little girl from the audience, and they said she will be the first human to walk on Mars!

The audience was very involved in the play. “...You guys [audience] add something to these shows,” said Theresa.

This production was enjoyable for the audience and the actors. I wouldn’t mind having to see this again. I enjoyed this play and would recommend it to my friends

STAR TREK LIVE

By: Hope Porrazzo, Grade 6, Woodbury Middle School

My experience at the Palace Theater was the most exciting I have ever had on any other field trip I’ve been to. Being at the Palace was awesome. I learned information from the tour guide Karen, and watched a fabulous performance: Star Trek Live. This was the best show I had seen in a long time.

The Palace Theater was designed by Thomas Lamb. It took 2800 gallons of paint to paint the whole theater! Construction on the theater started in 1920. In 1922 it officially opened to the public where it operated until 1987.

It cost \$30 million dollars to renovate the whole building, which reopened in 2004. It used to have part of a hotel in the lobby, for actors to stay in overnight. Also, there is faux marbling on the lobby walls, but not on the staircase; they are original. It took four men to paint the marbling. The doors in the lobby to enter the theater were all black, not glass. There used to be a river running under the Palace, but had to be rerouted so the palace can have the orchestra pit.

Backstage, we got to see where the actors entered the stage and the loading platform. It is where all the props are loaded. In the hallway near the dressing rooms, there are paintings on the wall that showed all the performances that took place there. The paintings are signed by the actors from each show. There is also a room called the “Green Room” where actors and directors had meetings

and ate meals. The dressing rooms are actually pretty simple. There is a long table with a row of mirrors bordered with light bulbs, a bathroom, and a set of lockers.

We learned that there are many superstitions in the theater. On stage, after every performance, a single lamp is left on stage, called a "Ghost Light". Legend has it, that they use the ghost light to scare away the ghost from earlier performances. We also learned about a show with an elephant in it. It accidentally fell through a trap door on the stage and, sadly, died. So if you hear an elephant's roar, you're hearing the wail of the elephant's ghost! We also learned where the expression "break a leg" comes from – the wooden legs sewn into the bottom of the curtain. If the audience enjoys the performance and the actors take many bows, the curtains go up and down over and over, so the "legs" might break meaning there were many bows.

Meeting the performers was really great. Their names were Theresa and Trevor. They explained the way they performed and how they prepared. I asked them "how was being an actor effect your life?" They replied that it took a lot of sacrifice because they keep moving all the time, are always apart from their families and it can be difficult at times because they had to wake up very early and get home very late. Theresa told us it was her 3rd year performing. She was the Vulcan and Trevor was the captain of the Star Trek ship. They are both from Canada. They find every performance is different because every audience is different. They enjoy the audience interaction.

It was very exciting to see that show and I look forward to coming back the Palace Theater and seeing another spectacular show!