

Ghostwriter

in Brief
December 2012



Evita sings its way into the hearts of Westford Academy

ANASTASHA ECHAVARRI
NEWS EDITOR

WATA showcased a part of Argentina's rich history by performing Evita. This main-stage play is about the life-story of Argentinian political figure Eva Perón and her rise and fall from power.

Evita is based off of the real life story of how Eva Perón, an actress, climbed her way up the political ladder and became one of the most beloved women in Argentinian history. During her time in office, she was able to win the adoration of the working class and was proclaimed "spiritual leader" of her country.

The play begins with a funeral procession outside the Casa Rosada, which is the executive house of the president of Argentina. Mourners walk down the aisles of the audience singing a dirge and gathering around a casket as fog begins to roll in. The person whose death they are mourning is no other than Eva Perón herself.

While the procession continues, Che Guevara, another important political figure in Argentina's history, enters onto the stage for the first time. He is the narrator of the story and looks back on the several scenes that take place during the play.

Che frequently comments throughout the play which gives Evita an extra layer of depth. He is the omniscient narrator who provides the audience with a different point of view.

"He's really an incred-

ible thinker and just an amazing philosopher," said junior Nick Nudler, the student who performed the role of Che.

The scenes that follow are a series of flashbacks which begin with Eva Perón's relationship with a tango singer called Augustin Magaldi. During these scenes she dreams about leaving the working class to live in Buenos Aires, the capital of the country.

Not long after this does she meet and fall in love with Juan Perón, the man who recently became the president of the country.

Sophomore Brandon Jurewicz, the student who plays Perón, attains power during an elaborate fight scene with several other political rivals. The scene ends when, after losing a fight, Perón turns around and shoots the victor in the head.

By the end of the first act, Eva and Perón are flying high and are beloved by all of the working class of Argentina. The aristocracy, however, afraid of giving up their power to the people, turns against Perón which later causes extreme conflict during the second act.

The reason there is a play about Eva Perón's life is because she fights for the rights of the people who are oppressed by society. It would make sense that she would fight for the wealthier classes. However, Eva fights for those who have no voice.

cal, but instead of speaking in a play they'd be singing, and the way that Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote it was not simple... You have to teach songs but you also have to teach speech through music," said music director and history teacher Scott Cruikshank.

Several songs that are extremely powerful include "A New Argentina", "Don't Cry for Me Argentina", "She is a Diamond", and "Dice are Rolling". The two most famous songs are the first two, sung primarily by Eva Perón and company.

"A New Argentina" is sung at the end of Act I by senior Jillian Frankel, the student who played Eva Perón. It is an extremely profound song where Eva states that she will strongly advocate for the voice of the people and promises to give them power. Frankel sings the song in such a passionate and sincere way that it ends the act on a compelling note.

Act II begins on a high note with Perón in power while Eva continues to reign in the working class. This is also when the song "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" is sung by Frankel.

Article continued on
waghostwriter.com



Scan with your smartphone to see this article and more on waghostwriter.com



Photo provided by ASA photography

Jill Frankel starring as Eva Perón.

"Eva was fighting for [the working class] because as she says in the song, she has suffered the way they have," said senior Tia Ryder, a member of the ensemble in the play.

What makes this play so special are the powerful and inspiring songs that are sung. In fact, there are only a few lines in the entire play that are not sung.

"It's difficult music. The challenging part is that not only are there big songs like there would be in any musi-

Behind the Desk with Linda Mahoney

NICOLE SOUZA
STAFF WRITER

Handling attendance, tardy passes, and numerous phone calls are just some of the jobs that Westford Academy administrative assistant Linda Mahoney has to do throughout her day. She says that the assistants she works with are “an amazing group” of which she is happy to be a part.

Mahoney started out as a special education teaching assistant, working with Dean Mike Parent for fourteen years. When the principal’s secretary wanted to retire, Mahoney did not jump at the opening right away. But after she was asked multiple times, she finally gave in, applied, and got the job.

From there, she worked

as a principal’s secretary for four years, working with multiple heads of school such as William McGuirk and James Antonelli before applying for attendance secretary. She got involved with her occupation because she wanted to be available when her kids were at home.

Not only does she answer the phone constantly, Mahoney has had to learn about three different systems for her job, such as iPass, which she had to go to a class to learn

about. Luckily the systems were easier to work with over time. Mahoney also says that the administration is great, and that there is “constant change” going on around her.



Photo by Nicole Souza

Mahoney at her desk.

On a typical day, Mahoney comes in early to walk with another administrative assistant Kathie Ablondi in the morning. She listens to about 150-175 messages per day. If it’s an especially crazy day, for example a Senior Skip

Day, she starts to listen to her messages at home sometimes as early as 4:30am. Last year during February break, it was a “nightmare”, as she had to start listening to the messages the day before and did not put the phone down all day. She listened to about 800-900 phone messages in just that day alone.

Mahoney’s favorite part of the job is “dealing with the kids.” She both gently and sarcastically gives them a hard time for coming in late.

“I love seeing the kids,” she says.

She has her “frequent flyers” and the “tardy club”, and reminds those who are late that school starts at 7:35am.

Article continued on
waghostwriter.com

Mangia Mangia offers savory Italian cuisine

JOCELYN COTE & ANASTASHA
ECHAVARRI
PHOTO EDITOR & NEWS
EDITOR

Mangia Mangia, located at 142 Littleton Road in Westford, is one of the town’s newest eateries. The restaurant replaced the now-defunct Westford Grille earlier this year.

Specializing in Italian cuisine, Mangia Mangia is medium-sized with multiple dining rooms which are used depending on the restaurant’s current occupancy. The rooms are well-lit and colorful with various Italian decor adorning the walls, creating an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming.

Mangia Mangia’s wait staff is fast and friendly. Bread was served at the start of the meal. Although the bread was cold, it was served with a unique blend of oil, pepper, and cheese for dipping.

The restaurant offers a

variety of classic Italian appetizers to start a meal. The toasted ravioli appetizer was excellent - it consisted of lightly breaded cheese ravioli topped with ricotta cheese and seasoned with herbs, served with marinara sauce.

The raviolis were overflowing with cheese and the breading was perfectly applied.

The restaurant’s entrée menu is split into six categories: Salads, Pizza, Mangia Favorites, Saute Sensations, Italian Traditions, and Sandwiches. They also offer daily specials. Although overall the menu is a bit pricy, there is obviously great care put into

every meal, justifying the price.

The ravioli parmigiana is one of the many entrées offered by Mangia Mangia. It consists of a heaping plate of cheese ravioli, topped with ricotta, marinara sauce,

and the diner’s choice of meatballs or Italian sausage. Like the toasted ravioli,

the pasta pillows were teeming with cheese and cooked perfectly. The sausage was especially impressive - the meal was served with two full links that were sweet enough, but not overpowering, and had very little gristle.



Photo by Jocelyn Cote

Mangia Mangia is one of the newest installations in Westford.

The ricotta gnocchi was simple, filling, and satisfying. Served on a large plate, the gnocchi was covered in lots of marinara sauce and came with either meatballs or sausages. The meatballs, both rich and savory, contrasted nicely with the sweet gnocchi. This meal was one of the cheapest dishes by far and it’s a bargain if you love cheese and heaps of marinara.

For after a meal, Mangia Mangia also offers a small dessert menu.

Overall, Mangia Mangia is an excellent addition to Westford’s restaurant scene. Entrée prices are a bit steep, but fit the quality of the food appropriately.

The restaurant’s atmosphere would be appropriate for a date or small gathering between family and friends.

Article continued on
waghostwriter.com