



Upcoming Performances

- **May 7th**- Spring Gala @ Theodore Roosevelt High School. 6:00PM. 1400 N Mantua St, Kent Ohio 44240

ALL AMERICANS AND ROUGE AT COMPETITION IN POCA WEST VIRGINIA

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to issue #3 of the Alumni Newsletter! The competition season came fast and furious, and it came to an end March 18th at Teays Valley. The year was interesting to say the least, but it was fun and we could not be more proud of the groups!

In their first competition in Poca, WV, we were able to have all three groups perform. Main Street had a great performance, Rouge did amazing, and the All Americans had quite possibly the most energetic prelim performances in ETC history. Main Street came in second in the middle school division. For the second straight competition, Rouge was able to make finals after winning the unisex division over Ohio powerhouse Loveland, and All Americans were in 3rd going into finals with Kayla Thompson winning best female soloist. Both groups did amazing in finals and Rouge ended up in 6th place and All Americans ended up in 3rd place.

At their second competition at Medina, there was a lot of tension as it was one of the best competitions in Ohio. Once again all three groups competed and did very well. All Americans ended up getting 4th overall, with Bailey Bender winning her 2nd best female soloist, Rouge got 2nd in the unisex division, and Main Street ended up 3rd in the middle school division.

At their third competition at Olentangy, we only had the two high school groups in attendance. At this competition both groups did extremely well in another tough competition. All Americans received 2nd runner up in Class A, and Bailey Bender won her 3rd best female soloist. Rouge was able to win their 3rd unisex grand championship over a good Grove City group. In finals, All Americans had a very emotional and amazing performance, and ended up getting 4th overall.

At their fourth competition in Churubusco, IN we again had the two high school groups. Both groups did amazing and All Americans ended up 4th overall, and Rouge got 4th overall in the unisex division. Senior Laura Dudones also won the solo competition.

At their last competition at Teays Valley all three groups once again performed. Each group did amazing, and at the prelim awards All Americans received 1st runner up in the championship division. Kayla Thompson won her second best female soloist award, as well as winning the solo competition. First year member Mikey Murray received 3rd place in the solo competition. Rouge ended up getting 2nd in the unisex division while winning best show concept and senior Khylee Kridler won best female soloist. Main Street ended up receiving 4th place in the middle school division along with Best Crew, Best Band, and Joy Carpenter won Best Female Soloist.

In finals All Americans left it all out on the stage and ended up receiving 3rd place and winning Best Choreography.

It was an interesting competition season in which the results don't reflect just how special these groups of kids were. They were truly one of the best ETC groups and we loved watching their show every time.

Now the season is winding down, and the only show that is left is Spring Gala on May 7th. If you are able to come be sure to come out! It will be at 6:00pm at Kent Roosevelt High School.

If you want to see each groups playlist that have multiple videos from multiple shows please click below.

All Americans:

[2017 All Americans playlist](#)

Rouge:

[2017 Rouge Playlist](#)

Main Street:

[2017 Main Street Singers Playlist](#)



Alumni Spotlight

In this edition of Alumni Spotlight we will be looking at the successes of alumni Jeff Hinchee!

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Year in Review - 2012

A look back at the year that was with the 2012 ETC All Americans.

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Alumni Spotlight

Jeff Hinchee

This edition of Alumni Spotlight will focus on Alumni Jeff Hinchee. Jeff was a member of ETC from 1993-1999, starting in middle school and continuing through high school at Stow Monroe Falls. He was a singer/dancer, one of the first members of the Main Street Singers when it was created, was a dance captain for Main Street and helped design sets for ETC. He designed the set for the 1998 All Americans show, the 1999 All Americans, and then the 2000 All Americans.

After graduating from ETC, Jeff went on to study set and costume design at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. There he was a part of a small group of classmates that continue to be his closest friends today. While getting his BFA he had the opportunity to study abroad in Scotland working at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and he spent a semester at NYU Studying puppetry.

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon in 2003, he moved to New York City and wrote a letter to a designer that he admired and considered the best fine artist working in theater. The artist then hired Jeff full time as his assistant, and he worked on sets and costumes for various opera, ballet, and theater across the US and in Europe. A few years later, he joined the design union, and worked on multiple off Broadway and Broadway shows while designing his own productions at various small theaters and festivals in New York.

In 2008 he left New York to pursue a Master's Degree in illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design and spent two years working on his illustrator's portfolio. While in Savannah he kept up with some theater work, assisting on shows at the Metropolitan Opera, and storyboarding the original concepts for The Book of Mormon.

He also started lecturing at the Texas State Thespian Festival.

After receiving his masters, he returned to Ohio for a bit, working mostly as a freelance illustrator for books, event posters, and albums. In 2012, he moved back to New York and worked heavily in theater, as an Associate Designer on Broadway. Some of the shows he worked on included Pippin, Macbeth, Finding Neverland, and Something Rotten. These were all illustration heavy, and technology developments meant a lot of his work was scanned and printed on a huge scale, rather than being interpreted by scenic artists.

In the past few years, he has been doing less theater by choice. He works primarily as an editorial and advertising illustrator in magazines and books, which he is enjoying. He still has some theater cross over. He frequently designs the key art and posters for productions, as well as doing an advertisement for the national tour of Phantom of the Opera. He was the assistant art director for the Wiz Live! on NBC and produced a lot of the artwork and illustrations used in the televised production and NBC's marketing, including developing the giant puppet head with the renowned puppet team. In the past year, he did the storyboard art for NBC's Hairspray Live, and the new Cirque du Soleil show Paramour, and developed an App game for kids called "Tunnel Park". Last December "Interview" magazine did a feature on Jeff on his work and art studio, and he did the cover art for a Penguin Random House young adult novel called "A Short History of the Girl Next Door" which will be released at the end of this year.

Just this past week (April, 2017) he was called in to join the set design team of Frozen on Broadway, where he is doing detailed backdrop drawings, and adding some quirky Disney "easter eggs" for sharp-eyed audience members.

We are elated to see how well Jeff has done and can't wait to see his further ventures!

You can read his "Interview" Magazine article here: [Interview Magazine Interview](#)



You can view Jeff's portfolio and resume at his two websites here: [Jeff Hinchee Scenic Design](#)

[Jeff Hinchee Illustrations](#)

WANT TO BE SPOTLIGHTED?

We would love to hear what you have been doing since leaving ETC! If you'd like to be on the next alumni spotlight please e-mail rsabree33@gmail.com with your name, years in ETC and what you have been up to!



ETC All Americans 2012

The 2012 All Americans will be fondly remembered as the show and year that brought ETC back to prominence in Ohio. The few years before 2012 had been big rebuilding years for ETC. In 2008 the numbers dropped to the mid-twenties and for the first time ETC did not make the finals at any competition. From then on ETC slowly rebuilt itself. It started in 2010 with a fun show, continued in 2011, and finally came to culmination in 2012.

The 2012 group was comprised of a multitude of veteran seniors that had been in ETC for multiple years. Not only were the veterans, they were hungry to get a grand championship. ETC had not won a grand championship since 2006, and expectations were high that this year may be the year the drought would be broken.

The excitement for the group was prevalent from the very beginning, as the group brought

back the past two ETC choreographers, Mike Weaver and Andy Haines, to work with Tara Tober on the show. This led to some big ideas, including creating a fully functional mini-baby grand piano to be placed on the top riser for the entire show. It had some of the great elements of shows of old; a good opener, props in the second number, a ballad with a knock out solo, and a fun closer. Add on a set that included metal trusses with lights on them, and you had all the elements of a special show.

All this excitement led the group to schedule six competitions, which was the most ETC had been to since 2003. The schedule would see them go to competitions in West Virginia and Ohio, including ending the year at the best run competition in Ohio, the Fairfield Crystal Classic.

The competition season started off on a high note, as the group placed 3rd behind big names Center Grove and Piqua. Their second competition was where they really started to feel as though they could do something special. At that competition in Beavercreek Ohio, they tied Piqua for 1st place, but the tiebreaker left them 2nd overall.

After two more competitions, the All Americans got their chance to face Piqua again at St. Clairsville. This competition was the one that many felt could be their moment, as it was going to come down to ETC vs Piqua. After a great prelims performance the group felt they were in a good spot, but you never know in show choir. The prelim awards ended

up being very special, as ETC swept almost every award given out. They were awarded Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Band, Best Show Design, Best Costumes, and Best Female Soloist Brianna Bell. After another good performance in finals, the All Americans achieved their dream. They were awarded that first grand championship since 2006.

After St. Clairsville the All Americans concluded their season with a 3rd place at Fairfield behind one of the nation's best choir Wheaton Warrenville South the Classics, and Edgewood Music Warehouse. They were the highest placing Ohio Choir and once again Brianna Bell took home Best Female Soloist.

The 2012 All Americans was a group that will always be remembered as an influential one for ETC. The show not only ended ETC's win drought, but also set up the All Americans to be the group that it is today.

Check out the "Year in Review" section of the website for a more in depth review of the year. You can also check out videos from the show here: [ETC All Americans 2012 Playlist](#)

Alumni Events

In this section we will have updates on any possible alumni events that will be scheduled.

If you are interested in an alumni event please e-mail rsabree33@gmail.com with ideas or RSVPs.

Event – May 7th – Spring Gala Meet up

Theodore Roosevelt High School

1400 N Mantua St, Kent, Ohio 44240

