

“15 Reasons Not to be in a Play” Review
By: Paul Vander Vort

If you managed to miss all of the announcements, this year’s play was, ironically titled, “15 Reasons Not to be in a Play.” As the title suggests, the play, a comedy, presented 15 reasons not to be in a play one by one. The reasons varied in length, with some being several minutes long to others being as short as just two words. The variation in length definitely added to the comedy of it, though, as you would expect a longer reason, but would instead hear just two words: “plays stink!” The longer reasons, on the other hand, came in two forms; they either had a narrator describing it, with actors giving a visual representation of the reason, or a scene depicting the reason. A great example of a narrated reason, and one of my personal favorites, was that the hypothetical play was run by an old, mean teacher, Ms. Griswold. One student acted as the old teacher, with a grey wig, cane and mean, raspy voice, and others acted as members of the play. The scene would switch between narration and acting, with everyone on stage active whether directly involved or not. Nolan Henahan, who played the teacher, did a great job in interpreting mean teachers, and the acting was very good in both this scene and throughout the play. I happened to be sitting near the back, but I could still hear everything perfectly throughout the play, a testament not only to the actors’ amplification, but also diction. The clarity of the lines, coupled with the clear movements on stage added to create a great performance that kept the audience laughing. The play ended with the conflict of nobody remembering the 15th reason (a conflict written into the script). Because they had promised the audience 15 reasons, though, the actors tried to come up with one on the spot. However, two separate reasons came from this, arising a second conflict of having 16 reasons rather than 15. This problem was resolved eventually, though, by making the final two reasons only count for half. Overall, the play was very good. I can’t think of any mistakes or moments where I couldn’t understand what was being said, and it did its job as a comedy.