

## Corbett theater troupe stages classic

*'Anne of Green Gables' to run Jan. 13-16*

BY ROB CULLIVAN

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**Josiah Tullis, a Corbett High School sophomore, and Alex Hendricks, a Corbett junior, are playing with the forces of darkness.**

"Don't you have this cue down?" Hendricks says to Tullis.

"Yeah, but the No. 5 light is a little too bright," Tullis responds.

The 16 year olds are running sound and lights for Corbett Children Theater's latest production "Anne of Green Gables," which opens Thursday, Jan. 13, at the school district's Multi-Purpose Building.

Hendricks works for MDM Productions in Portland, a sound/lighting company and is loaning his talents to the theater troupe.

"I just like setting up all this stuff, and the shows are pretty fun," he says. "It's just really fun to do this with all the computers and technology we use."

Both young men say power is a bit of problem in the building.

"Just in rehearsals, we've blown, like, four breakers," Tullis says.

But he wouldn't trade places with anyone.

"It's really fun for us to be up here and watch the show evolve."

### Adopting roles

"Anne of Green Gables" tells the tale of aging brother and sister Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert who send to an orphanage in Nova Scotia for a boy to help them on the farm.

Due to a mix-up, they are instead left with 11-year-old Anne Shirley, a hotheaded, romantic and energetic girl who wins their hearts and turns their stodgy, rural community into a brighter world.

Angel Williams, the show's director, says it's been a bit of a challenge putting the play together because it features 50 students in the cast and 12 in the stage crew. The show will also feature a number of new faces unfamiliar to Corbett Children Theater's audiences, she says.

Williams also says the play is one a number of cast members can relate to somewhat, given they were adopted.

Take Leila Gorman, a Corbett Middle School seventh-grader who plays Anne's best friend, Diana.

"I can relate to Anne more than most people because I am adopted just like her," she says. "Anne's story has helped me relate to my personal life in many ways. It makes me see what it is like for other people who are orphans."

Her sister, Clara Gorman, a Corbett ninth-grader and the play's stage manager, was also adopted and is from China. She notes that she likes the fact the main character "finds a family and builds a life for herself with people who love her, even though they are not blood-related.

"This idea really pulled me into the play," she says. "It also means a lot to me. because being adopted. I



JIM CLARK / THE OUTLOOK

Alex Hendricks, left, a Corbett junior, and Josiah Tullis, a Corbett High School sophomore, are running sound and lights for Corbett Children Theater's latest production "Anne of Green Gables," which opens Thursday, Jan. 13, at the school district's Multi-Purpose Building.

am in the exact same situation that Anne is in, and I love how this classic piece of writing touches on this specific issue which I feel is very important.”

Anne shows that family is about who you love, not to whom you’re related, she adds.

“Your family are the people who love and support you for who you are and Anne’s story made me realize how lucky I am to have been adopted by a loving family, just as she was.”

### **If you go**

WHAT: Corbett Children’s Theater presents ‘Anne of Green Gables’

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16.

WHERE: Corbett Schools Multi-Purpose Building, 35800 E. Historic Columbia River Highway

COST: \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, with matinee group rates available.

INFO: 503-695-2296, corbett

childrenstheater.com

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