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"The 13 Days of Christmas" Holiday Production Benefits Children's Hospital

Submitted by Marian Rule



From left, Peter Pan Foundation cast members Robyn Stephenson and Andrew Cope during the Dec. 16 performance of "The 13 Days of Christmas."

More than 100 local performers, ages 5 to 50, from Lamorinda and other local areas performed in the Peter Pan Foundation's (PPF) holiday musical, "The 13 Days of Christmas," last Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 15 and 16. The show was created and written by Campolindo High School senior Jayne Skinner and Acalanes High School junior Andrew Cope.

For Cope, the exciting part was the opportunity to see the show they wrote 'come to life' and to see the enthusiasm in the younger performers as they gained confidence on stage. "As our high school and college performers worked with the younger kids, we all learned something," he said. "The Peter Pan Foundation gave us huge opportunities while giving us the chance to benefit the kids at Children's Hospital Oakland who need our help."

"The foundation produces three shows each year," said Skinner, who also serves this year as the president of the Peter Pan Foundation's teen council. "Last year, Andrew and I had the idea that we could write the show set in the small town of Evergreen. The people of Evergreen are looking forward to the holidays, but something is amiss in town and it evolves into a mystery. Our 2012 version of the show was all new: still a mystery, but re-written to keep this

year's audience guessing."

This year's third show, "Franc D'Ambrosio's Christmas in New York," will feature Franc D'Ambrosio, best known for his impressive portrayal of the title character in Broadway's Phantom of the Opera. D'Ambrosio holds the distinction of being the world's longest-running Phantom. He will be joined onstage by PPF founder Leslie Noel, and 90 young members of the foundation Friday, Dec. 21 at the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a silent auction and appetizers. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Peter Pan Foundation (PPF) is a non-profit organization founded by Noel, who has led the efforts of hundreds of local youth in philanthropic activities; kids help kids, and use their musical talents and the arts to entertain and raise money for local charities. Celebrating its fifth anniversary, PPF hopes to raise \$50,000 for Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland and for other local charities, all from the three musical production proceeds. For more information about the organization, visit www.peterpanfoundation.org.

Two Campo Grads Featured on Yahoo's Ultimate Surprises

By Cynthia Brian



Photos provided

The story of how two people meet and fall in love is always fascinating. Is it destiny, chemistry, or just being in the right place at the right time? For two Campolindo High School graduates, it was love and serendipity.

This fall the engagement of the two Moraga natives was the feature of Yahoo's *Ultimate Surprises*, an internet reality show with a positive spin.

Former Moragan and current Los Angeles firefighter, Brian Rankin, surprised his radio personality girlfriend, Heather Sheaff, with a sparkly ring in Huntington Beach amidst the blaring sirens of fire trucks and a film crew with hidden cameras.

Rankin and Sheaff's mom secretly worked with the casting director and production company for three months behind the scenes before the elaborate clandestine pro-

posal transpired in November.

Under the ruse of a business meeting, Sheaff waited on a restaurant balcony for the supposed "client" to arrive when the waitress informed her that the fire department had been called to check an electrical issue in the kitchen. Sirens and horns blared. As the ladder reached the top of the balcony, the firefighter dressed in full turn out gear, jumped out of the bucket with the ultimate romantic surprise. Although they had known one another since they were six, it took 20 years to fall in love.

Congratulations to these Moraga natives for starring in their own love story - Proposal to the Rescue! Watch it: <http://screen.yahoo.com/episode-7-proposal-to-the-rescue-31030474.html>.

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