

Northstar Takes the Spotlight

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Reporter

The Northstar Playmakers' productions of *Pippin* and *12 Angry Jurors* were honored with multiple nominations and awards this year, including both the Halo and Stephen Sondheim awards.

The musical *Pippin* was nominated for several awards including Best Chorus, Best Classical musical, and various other nominations, cementing *Pippin*'s place in Westhill's history as one of the most celebrated productions.

The Northstar Playmakers' winter production *12 Angry Jurors* was nominated for the Best Classical Play Award and Best Performance by a Cast in an Ensemble Production.

This showcases the development and new standard of excellence at Westhill. A main part of what made the production so successful was the courage and collaboration that went into it. Throughout the production, the cast and crew supported each other, which allowed them to build confidence in their acting ability.

These awards are very meaningful for Westhill as they signify a meaningful experience that can go beyond the stage.

The Halo Awards and Sondheim Award elevates Westhill High School's reputation in the Connecticut's arts community.

Niko Rinaldi was the star of the show, playing the main character Pippin in *Pippin*. He was nominated for 3 different Halo awards including best props design, best performance by a couple of dynamic duo in a musi-

cal with Grace Gerard, and best performance in a leading male role in a classical musical.

Niko Rinaldi was also nominated for Best Actor in the Stephen Sondheim Awards. This award shows the determination and dedication he had during the show *Pippin*.

Paul Ferris played as the king in *Pippin* and also played an important role in the production of the musical. He was nominated for both Best Props Design and Best performance in a comic male role in a musical.

Sophia Chu, a freshman at Westhill High School, participated in both *12 Angry Jurors* and *Pippin* and won the Best standout performance in a female role in an ensemble production for *12 Angry Jurors* as Juror #4.

Tristan Kozlowski was nominated for Best Standout performance in a male role in an ensemble production as Juror #8 in *12 Angry Jurors*.

Some other recognitions that Westhill received at the Halos include Best Performance as a Comic Female in a Musical for Lilah Gordon as Berthe in *Pippin*, Best Hair and/or Makeup Design and/or Execution for Ava Sanchez in *12 Angry Jurors*, Best Scenic Design and/or Execution for Kimberly Aragon, Jady Pettway, Guillermo Jaquez, Best Featured Dancers for Sunia Gadtoula, and Isla Cruz as a Leading Player in *Pippin*.

All of these show the department's depth and versatility in student talent as well as production quality. These awards are just stepping stones for the future of the theatrical department of Westhill.



"LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION" Niko Rinaldi and Grace Gerard in a scene for the play *Pippin*. Photo by @northstarplaymakers.



ISLA CRUZ practicing for her role in the production *Pippin*. Photo by @northstarplaymakers