Acting Teens Wow Audience By Cathy Tyson

Before the curtain rose on a recent performance of "Harvey" at the Town Hall Theatre there was a distinct buzz in the audience. Neighbors, grandmas, friends and family were here in support of these young actors who had worked so hard honing their performances. This was the culmination of the summer acting class for the Ovation group of Town Hall Kids. Teens 14 – 18, many of whom had been in earlier productions, had the opportunity to work in a small ensemble with guidance from director Joel Roster. He says of the close-knit group, "I couldn't be prouder of the cast. Not only do students put on a full scale production, but they develop an appreciation of the theater."

Soon to be a senior at Campolindo, Alex Dixon Hall, who plays one of the main characters, Elwood P. Dowd, says of the experience, "It was fantastic! Unlike anything I've done before, a huge adventure, more exciting than I expected it to be. It changed me, as a person. I rediscovered parts of myself. Its easy to become stressed out." Like the character he portrays, he realized its better to relax and look on the bright side. Alex and the entire 11 member cast did a wonderful job from start to finish.

Located at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street, the historic Town Hall Theatre is the oldest continuously active theater company in the County. Perhaps more important to thirsty attendees, it's the only community theater where patrons are encouraged to enjoy a snack or ice cold beer, purchased at the street level lobby to enjoy from the comfort of your plush red seat while watching the performance.

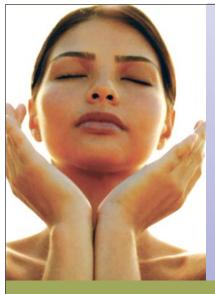
Fall classes for Town Hall Kids Theater start September 7 and registration is now open. Interested children from 3 – 7 can partic-



from left to right: Kiera Peacock, Molly Simon, Haley Leitman, Donish Cushing, Hannah Sharafian, Katie Rich, Alex Dixon Hall, Maggie Manzano-Mallison, Zach Sturgeon, Jack Caine, Claire Rossi- de Vries

ipate in "Rising Stars," which will present Jungle Adventures, kids from 7-11 are in the "Bravo" group which will present Jungle Book, kids 11-14 are in "Encore" and will present Aladdin Jr., and finally the Ovation group, kids from 14-18 will present the musical, Grease. Details on the classes can be found at www.town-hallkids.com.

"The process is not about a person becoming a star, it's about team building, learning about yourself and confidence," says Janice Peacock, Director of Education.



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