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Academy Awards: An Ever-Changing Show



Contestants Evan Witzczak, Fritz Sehring, Max Timmer and Howie Gerstner go over the script with emcees Leya Abujamra and Mattea Vecera.

by **Mattea Vecera**

"The only constant is change."

Mr. NDA of 1996, the contest that evolved into the Academy Awards, was itself the brainchild of change.

"When Sr. Pat hired me and told me I was Student Government moderator, she said my job was to make a major change at NDA," explained English teacher Carolyn Brown "We were to have a week of fun called

Fall Festival Week and make the kids forget about homecoming."

"Do anything you want to have fun and make the students glad we've changed from homecoming to Fall Festival Week," she said. "That first year there was a protest homecoming dance at Holy Family, but by the second year the change was set."

The "fun" event on Tuesday night of that first Fall Fest Week was Mr.

NDA, an idea Brown brought from her former high school in Chicago.

An instant hit, the event became so big it was changed to a Saturday night weekend after football playoffs so the players could be contestants. This was the first of many changes to come.

Canned goods were collected for admittance and seats were first come first serve, causing many to line up outside ahead of time to ensure a

good view of the stage. The ticket system was added to give more structure to the chaos of this sold-out show.

As the years went by, contestants took advantage of new technology with video recordings for their introductions and talents. Bear Brummel was the first contestant to use a computer in his act his junior year. He earned the title of Mr. NDA that year. Now, nearly every intro and many acts utilize video.

Within the last few years, contestants' acts became so intricate and long that a whole segment, swimwear, was removed entirely to reduce the length of the show.

After complaints of the title given to the freshman and sophomore females accompanying the contestants on stage, advisers created the word "rampeteer" to remove any negative connotations or concerns.

Last year, controversy struck when Student Government decided to include girls in the show after 22 years of being exclusive to males. This also meant that students of any gender could be an emcee, a rampeteer, or in the senior dance.

While this was a big change, most failed to realize that this was just one of many since it was implemented at Notre Dame.

The Academy Awards is arguably the

most popular event at the school, and changes will constantly be made. This year, for example, the show had to be moved from the end of first semester, usually the first week in December, to the first weekend in February.

The staff involved in putting it together works diligently during the weeks leading up to the show to make it the best it can be.

Frau Jen Laaksonen, executive adviser of Student Government, coordinates the annual fundraiser. Other advisers are Mrs. Julie Campbell, Mrs. Sarah VanGrunsven, Mrs. Holly Hinch and Mrs. Brown. Alum Jake Gerlikovski, now an employee of NDA, oversees the technical aspects of the show.

Many don't know that the show directly affects all students, as the money from tickets goes towards Academy Ball. Without the show, those prices would increase.

Money is also used to fund Student Government projects, and complimentary tuxedos from DuBois, along with gift packages from sponsors like Green Bay Floral, make the show the success it is.

"We are a reflection of how our society has changed," said Brown. As society evolves, so will the Academy Awards. Who knows what will come of the show 24 years from now!

Brummel Reflects, Offers Advice to Contestants

Greetings 2020 Academy Awards Contestants,

This is Owen Brummel, former Mr. NDA. I wanted to officially congratulate you on making it into the 2020 Academy Awards show. Your greatest high school experiences are in the making and you are in for a wild but fun ride. Academy Awards has been an essential part of Notre Dame's tradition for 24 years, and you should feel honored to be a part of a Notre Dame legacy. I know I am!

Here is some advice and what to expect as I tell you my experiences of being in the Academy Awards show, the problems I encountered as well as my favorite parts. Looking back at my four years of high school, it is easy to say that being crowned Mr. NDA is my favorite experience. If you were to ask anyone else who has been in the show, they will say the same thing. So cherish every moment of it!

My older brother, Bear Brummel, graduated in the class of 2009 and was the first junior to be crowned Mr. NDA. When I found out that the student body voted me into the show, I couldn't turn down the opportunity. It's awesome to have shared that legacy and experience with my older brother.

No one realizes how much work the show requires until you are immersed in the chemistry and culture of it all. It's important in the process leading up to the show that you stay appreciative of all the teachers and staff and how much they do for you in the process. They do their best to please every



Father Christian congratulates the newly crowned Mr. NDA 2018 at last year's event.

contestant and that's not easy to do. The preparation process requires a lot of work. You're going to need to sacrifice time aside from your schoolwork to practice. And it's natural to feel a lot of pressure; no one wants to look unprepared in front of the entire student body and community.

The talent portion, in my opinion, really decides the winner of the show. For me it was hard to decide what I wanted to do, and such decisions are the hardest part of the whole process. Some people sing, dance or re-enact a skit of some kind. If I were to give one piece of advice

for your talent, it is try to do something that's never been done before. People have this preconceived idea for Academy Awards, saying that in order to be in the show you have to be funny. This is not true. I tried to balance it out by having more of a silly intro video in contrast to a more serious talent. My intro was still relevant to my identity and foreshadowed what my talent was going to be about.

The question and answer portion of the show was the most nerve-racking for me because you don't know what you are going to be asked, and you're judged by how witty and quick your answer is.

Through all of your conflicting decisions, the best thing to do is to just stay calm because every other contestant is going through the same thing as you. And no matter what happens, it'll end up being a great experience for you.

What I enjoyed most was getting to know all of the other contestants. Being a junior in the show was a little intimidating, but it didn't matter. They are all great people and were good to me. My favorite memories are hanging out with the contestants in the dressing rooms and going out to get food after staying at school late and practicing. It's a stressful time for the contestants, but being with others and getting to know them made it so much easier for me.

You shouldn't feel afraid to ask someone to help you with anything because many of the people in the show are in multiple acts and will be glad to help you out. You should also know

that there's no need to feel pressure because the Academy Awards always ends up being amazing. People consider it to be the highlight of the year. Parents and people in the community also love to come out and see everyone's unique talents.

I feel relieved about having won last year. As much as I'd love to be a contestant this year, I can still be a part of the show one way or another. I'm looking forward to helping people with their talents and intro videos. I'm looking forward to handing off the crown and cape to someone else. I'm thankful to still be at NDA to witness that same culture and chemistry of Academy Awards that I came to love in the show last year.

I wish you all good luck, and urge you to cherish every moment of this. You just might be the next Mr. or Ms. NDA!

--Owen Brummel, Mr. NDA 2018

Words of Gratitude for the Academy Awards

To DuBois Formalwear for complimentary tuxedos

To Green Bay Floral for complimentary flowers

To Jake Gerlikovski and the Tech Crew for hours of work

To show advisers and NDA staffers who have volunteered so many hours of their time to make the show a success

To Tritonian journalists, especially Lauren Van Gheem, who put together this special issue of the paper

2 Academy Awards: The Contestants



Erik Sladky

Erik, what always makes you cry?
Walking into school with a 20-mile per hour wind blowing into my eyes

What is your favorite location at NDA?
Mrs. Gilson's classroom, 2nd row, 2nd desk

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
Offensive lineman for the Green Bay Packers

Who is the male or female version of yourself?
Billie Eilish

What's the last lie you told?
"Joel, it looks like you lost some weight."

What would you do if the world was ending?
Eat an entire bottle of melatonin gummies so I can experience hallucinations.

What is the theme song of your life?
"Turbulence" by Steve Aoki



Henry Wied

Henry, what's the last lie you told?
"See you at school tomorrow, Hunter."

What is the theme song of your life?
"Big Time Rush" by Big Time Rush

What always makes you cry?
Driving to school

What is your favorite location at NDA?
The commons, as long as Mr. Browne is keeping the floors clean.

Who would be your dream date and why?
Senora Stover, there's not much more to ask for.

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?
My brother so I can see what the weather is like down there.

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?
"If you're good at something, never do it for free." -- The Joker



Joel Meglic

Joel, what would you do if the world was ending?
Dine and dash at a TGI Friday's

What is the theme song of your life?
"Girls Gone Wild" by Captain Ahab

What always makes you cry?
Ending to Step Brothers. Will Ferrell sings "Por Ti Volare"

Who is the male or female version of yourself?
Beyoncé

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?
Owen Brummel

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?
"Never trust a fart after Chipotle." -- Kyle Steuck

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
Hopefully in a place where I can legally wear open-toed shoes.

Sonja, what is the theme song of your life?
"Fat Bottomed Girls" by Queen. My dad used to always sing it to me; I just really resonated with the lyrics.

What always makes you cry
The lyrics to "Fat Bottomed Girls"

Who is the male version of yourself?
Daniel Kriegl

If you had to have a superpower, what would it be?
Horsepower

What is your best pick-up line that we can print?
"Do you wanna come over? My parents are home."

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, who would it be?
The body of Christ

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?
"The moon landing was a government plot." -- Shane Dawson

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
Still seeking my parents' approval.



Sonja Gapinski

Evan, what would you do if the world was ending?
Go confess my sins to Father Christian, then go bowling

What is the theme song of your life?
"Play that Funky Music Whiteboy" by Wild Cherry

What always makes you cry?
The first Pokemon movie

Who is the male or female version of yourself?
Danny Devito

Who would be your dream date and why?
Andrea Gilson because she's a wonderful woman and I could walk to her house.

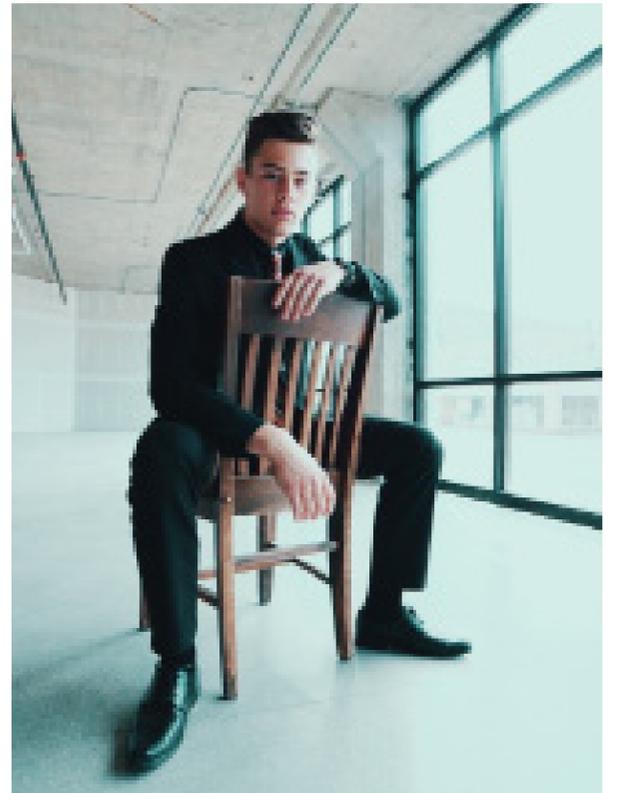
What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?
"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Don't teach a man to fish and you feed yourself. He's a grown man. Fishing's not that hard" -- Rod Swanson

What is your biggest regret?
Letting my mom sell my Nerf guns in the garage sale.

What is your best pickup line that we can print?
"Hi, I'm Date Mike. Nice to meet me. How do you like your eggs?"



Evan Walczyk



Howie Gerstner

Howie, what is your biggest regret?
Never being able to out-pizza the Hut

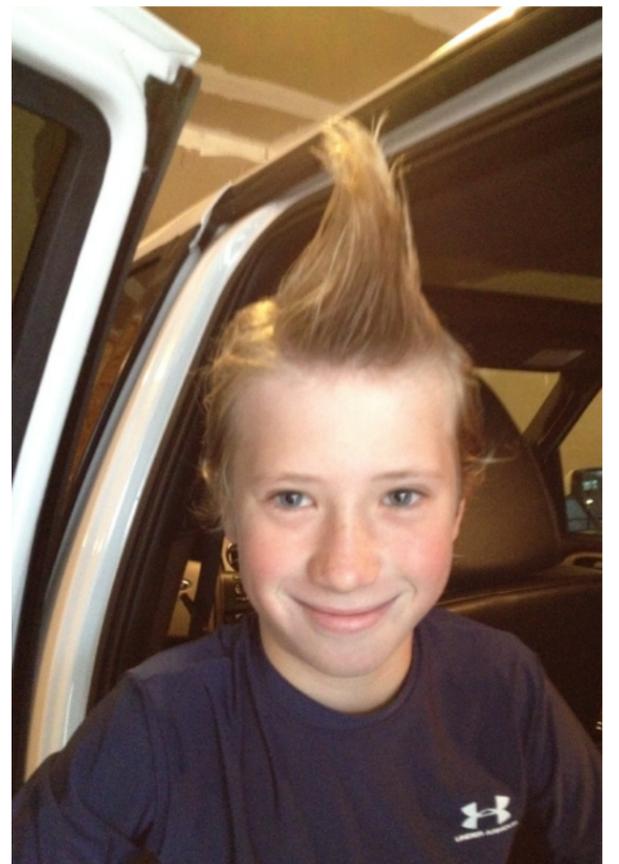
If you had to have a superpower, what would it be?
The power of being able to speak all languages. I want to understand what Playboi Carti is saying in his songs.

Who would be your dream date and why?
Gigi Hadid. I heard that she is very intelligent.

What's the last lie you told?
Nice haircut, Mr. Konshak. Your wife is talented

What is your favorite location at NDA?
The lunchroom. I run a massive operation where I tell Michael Hummel a tragic story about how my lunch was stolen or forgotten, and he pays for my lunch. I tell him that the lunch costs one more dollar than it actually does, so I buy the lunch and pocket the other dollar. With an extra five dollars a week, I have a pretty profitable side hustle going.

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?
Fritz Sehring, fit in tight places and all that.



Evan Witczak

Evan, what is the theme song of your life?
"Man's Not Hot" by Big Shaq (the one and only)

What always makes you cry?
Listening to Lucid Dreams. Rip Juice </3

Who is the male or female version of yourself?
Lizzo

If you had to have a superpower, what would it be?
Definitely not super strength. I'm already huge.

Who would be your dream date and why?
Lucy Quidzinski. Lucy, if you're reading this, I'm sorry. Take me back?

What is your best pickup line that we can print?
"Hey, are you the ACT, because I wanna cheat on you."

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
The janitor at Nicolet National Bank

Academy Awards: The Contestants 3



Maggie Otradovec

Maggie, what would you do if the world was ending?

Probably eat a meal consisting of french fries and coffee

What's the last lie you told?

"Joe, your hair looks great today!"

What always makes you cry?

Parks and Recreation, Season 4, Episode 11, 16:25

Who is the male or female version of yourself?

Ronald Reagan

Who would be your dream date and why?

Tom Holland because he's Spiderman (duh)

What is your best pickup line that we can print?

"I am going to complain to Spotify about you not being this week's hottest single."

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?

"Don't forget to say 'Hit it, Caragan' or something when you walk out." -- Caragan Olles

What is your biggest regret?

Bangs :)

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

President of the United States (age doesn't matter)



Charles Peterson

Charles, what would you do if the world was ending?

Watch *Napoleon Dynamite* and eat ice cream

What always makes you cry?

When I hear the song "Gary, Please Come Home" from *Spongebob*

What is your favorite location at NDA?

Mr. Kriegl's bubble

What is your best pickup line that we can print?

"Do you like raisins? How do you feel about a date?"

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?

The rat from *Ratatouille*

What is your biggest regret?

Forgetting my ID twice

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Getting the lead in the musical as a super senior

If you had to have a superpower, what would it be?

The power to time travel but only to the present

Who would be your dream date and why?

Driving to Dubuque, Iowa, for dinner because that's where my girlfriend lives

Fritz, what is your biggest regret?

Not taking advantage of the Claire's Holiday Sale

What would you do if the world was ending?

Play Fortnite: Save the World

What always makes you cry?

When Gru gets married at the end of *Despicable Me 2*

Who is the female version of yourself?

Michelle Obama

Who would be your dream date and why?

Mrs. Hollenback; I'm pretty sure she has unlocked immortality.

What's the last lie you told?

"Max, you really make that crop top work."

What is the theme song of your life?

"Squirrels In My Pants" from *Phineas and Ferb*



Fritz Sehring

Max, what would you do if the world was ending?

Listen to the *Victorious* soundtrack one last time

What's the last lie you told?

"Yeah, it's fine, Witczak. Mrs. Litt won't mind if you fill in that last bubble."

What is the theme song of your life?

"Heartless" by Kanye West

What always makes you cry?

Thinking about my Webkinz being without food for 10 years

Who is the male or female version of yourself?

Mattea Vecera

If you had to have a superpower, what would it be?

The ability to have a real heart

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?

A lot of middle-aged moms on Facebook have been telling me to Live Laugh Love

What is your biggest regret?

Being a male ballerina for 10 years

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Balding and alone



Max Timmer



Alex LaMere

Alex, what's the last lie you told?

"Jack, your ears aren't that big."

What is the theme song of your life?

"Chicken Fried" by Zac Brown Band

What always makes you cry?

Watching Hallmark movies with my mom

What is your favorite location at NDA?

NDA basketball bench

What is your best pickup line that we can print?

"Are you a goldfish? Because you're a snack that smiles back."

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?

Sam Schmid because who doesn't want to be a meatball.

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?

"Shake and Bake" -- Ricky Bobby



Ben Smet

Ben, who is the male or female version of yourself?

Anyone named Keith

What is your favorite location at NDA?

The far right stall in the bathroom across from Campus Ministry. The brick wall gives a warm and motherly feeling.

If you had to have a superpower, what would it be?

Tik Tok infamy

Who would be your dream date and why?

Marshawn Lynch. Gut feeling.

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?

Luke Skywalker, so I can always sense my parents' presence before they cut my hand off

What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?

"Sounds like a personal problem" -- David Vandenberg

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Probably somewhere in the maturation process where I begin to appreciate the finer things in life, like dry rub chicken wings.



Owen Campbell

Owen, what's the last lie you told?

"Of course, I didn't see *Frozen II* three times in theaters."

What is the theme song of your life?

"The Imperial March"

Who is the male or female version of yourself?

Emma Rose Sonnenburg

What is your favorite location at NDA?

Frau's room, because it's nerd central

Who would be your dream date and why?

Flying carpet ride over Agrabah. The date speaks for herself.

What is your best pickup line that we can print?

"How you doin'?"

If you could trade bodies with anyone in the world, whom would you choose?

Baby Yoda, because when I'm 50, I want to look that good.

Academy Chatter:

What is your favorite Mr. NDA or Academy Awards Memory?

Ellese Martin, senior: "Watching Owen Brummel play guitar live on stage and win the show."
Max Timmer, senior: "The day before the Saturday of the show because it's so cool to be there finalizing all of the skits and just having one last day with everyone."
Anna Zimmerman, junior: "My freshman year when I was Eric Wyecker's rampeteer, we made the joke that he got 4th. He is still in my phone as 'Mr. NDA 4th place.'"
Owen Brummel, senior: "Being in the show last year, you can really see how much work it requires. My favorite memory was preparing for the show and practicing with all of the contestants. It was fun getting close to all of them."

Kai Assef, senior: "Watching Howie try to sing 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and him forgetting the words."
Baylee Brabazon, sophomore: "Max Timmer's parody intro video of *The Office*."
Lucy Quidzinski, junior: "When Teddy Suda sang with his band on stage for his talent with a broken foot and was hopping around stage. He had everyone on their feet when he was singing some rock song. My brother was also in the band; he played guitar for him."
Bella Brabazon, senior: "When I was a rampeteer for Mitch Chosa my sophomore year."
Sarah Lelinski, senior: "The surprise look on Ben's face when he won because he deserved to win, and I was

so proud of him."
Jack Christensen, junior: "My freshman year Ben Lelinski sang with helium, and it was hilarious."
Courtney Romes, senior: "Being a judge my sophomore year and being right up close with Charlie Lemkuil's fountain talent."
Sydney VanWychen, senior: "Seeing everyone step out of their comfort zones and become other people, like Mr. Lagerman and Buddy the Elf."
Sonja Gapinski, junior: "Being in my brother's act as a dancing llama."
James Adams, senior: "Either Ben Lelinski's intro video or me falling in love with Henry Weid."
Michael Hummel, senior: "Being a judge my junior year."
Eddie Noble, junior: "Andrew Zipp's

hilarious intro video based off of Beyond Scared Straight."
Alex Roach, senior: "Howie's singing for his talent."
Riley VandenHouten, junior: "When Bo Buckley did the splits."
Tommy Tressler, senior: "Jack Pavek and Jack Wied's dance/song of parting."
Eli Servais, senior: "Definitely being a judge my freshman year."
Evan Skaletski, senior: "Henry Wied's Family Feud was hilarious."
Tommy Zakowski, junior: "When 'Sweet Home Alabama' started playing early during Fuzz's intro."
Tim Turek, junior: "Probably this year, when Evan Skaletski wins."
Xander Roberts, junior: "Mike Gregory and John Fry doing their skit."
Brendon Willadsen, senior: "When Ben Lelinski sang with a helium balloon."
Riley Onell, senior: "I liked Owen Brummel playing the guitar."
Charlie Wied, senior: "I really liked Henry Wied's, Cribben's, and John Fry's acts."
Grant Allen, senior: "Lelinski on helium."
Noah Sternig, senior: "When Riley Onell did his rollerblading act."
Avery McClain, senior: "I personally like the intros."
Ben Smet, senior: "The cold weather is my favorite part of Mr. NDA."
Myles Krzewinski, senior: "Alex Ruiz landed a bottle flip a few years ago, and it was sick."
Marcus Hornacek, senior: "Henry Wied's intro video."
Sam Peterman, senior: "Danny Stewart's mermaid skit."
Maggie Otradovec, senior: "I got to be a rampeteer for Jack Flis, and I also got to sing in his intro."
Cassidy Noble, senior: "Henry Wied's Family Feud was really funny last year."
Sawyer Scholl, senior: "Henry Wied's video was hilarious."
Max McNeil, junior: "Riley and Bo's skit."
Jack Schumer, senior: "When Danny Stewart spit water all over."
Hayden Benner, senior: "Henry's performance with Ben Smet and Max Healy last year."
Parker Olson, senior: "Someone did an 'MTV Cribs' performance, and it was really funny."
Katherine Fangman, senior: "Bo and Riley skating."
Noah Sternig, senior: "Helping with

Henry Wied's video."
Judah Gartzke, junior: "When Evan Walczyk turned around the chair like Mr. Lagerman."
Charles Peterson, senior: "Playing piano for Ben Lelinski."
Sydney Lemkuil, senior: "Being Fuzz's rampateer my sophomore year."
Howie Gestner, senior: "Working with Jake Gryboski on his act last year. We practiced the act for hours, but we still managed to miss every cue when we performed it on stage. It was quite a fun time, and we made the most of it."
Melanie Luna Guerrero, senior: "Katherine Zeise's talent act with Mitch Chosa."
Sarah Wingert, junior: "When Cayman Berg sang for Mr. NDA and won. He shocked everybody by singing."
Chloe Forbes, junior: "The dude that was on the island with the ball. That made me happy inside."
Maddie Gage, junior: "Ben Lelinski's performance was my favorite. I liked the bagpipes."
Joey Bonadonna, sophomore: "Mine would have to be Josh Cribben's anger translator."
Chris Charles, sophomore: "I liked everyone's funny skits that they created."
Triston Behrend, sophomore: "Josh Cribben's anger translator."
Sean Manning, sophomore: "I liked Anna Schaut's SNL skit."
Nick Bumgardner, sophomore: "Bo Buckley and Riley O'Neil's rollerblading performance last year."
Libby Rickards, junior: "It's between Charlie Lemkuil's water act and Owen Brummel playing guitar and drawing his grandparents, which made me cry."
Alexander Brabant, junior: "Being part of Eric Wycker's intro video."
Magdalena Helfenberger, junior: "I liked the dancing during Mr. NDA and the carpooling videos."
Sammy Opichka, junior: "My favorite memory was Josh Cribben's skit."
Hannah Weiss, junior: "Breaking my ankle and then being Theo's rampeteer in his skit 'Born to Run.'"
Jack Salzwedel, junior: "Working in the shadows backstage."
Stephanie Wilke, junior: "Charlie Lemkuil's talent, the one with the water."
Margaret Bolin, junior: "Rampeteering to a *La La Land* song because now I get anxiety flashbacks whenever I watch the movie."



Frau Laaksonen uses a video to show rampeteers their role in the upcoming Academy Awards.

Rampeteers Play Important Roles

by Skylar Schultz

As the buzz around this year's Academy Awards show is ramping up, so are its rampeteers. A long-standing staple of the show, this year's rampeteers will be participating in a 24-year-old tradition, as old as the show itself.

"When I brought the idea of the show from my big high school in the Chicago area, we were looking for ways to involve freshmen and sophomores," said English teacher Carolyn Brown. "You had to be a junior or senior to be in the show; having the 'escorts' or 'rampeteers' was a way to give freshmen and sophomores a role."

However, the job has evolved quite a bit since. "Over the years the contestants have often asked their rampeteer to do more than just escort them onto the ramp," said Brown. "Some have done a little dancing, acting, or singing onstage in the intro or played a role in the contestant's video."

Rampeteers are also essential during the run of the show, especially in their reappearance for the Q & A competition. "Contestants are usually nervous for the Q & A portion of the contest," said Brown. "Often they are drained and forget what to do near the end of the night."

Will this year's crew be up to the task? They seem to think so.

"I am very excited about being chosen to become a rampeteer," said freshman Barbara Inciarte. "I have been told by several people that being a rampeteer is extremely fun. I can't wait to experience it myself!"

Sophomore Abby Elfner said, "I've wanted to be part of Academy Awards since I saw it last year, and I'm really looking forward to see the difference between watching it and actually being in it."

"I am a little nervous," admitted Jacob Massart, "because I wasn't a part of Academy Awards last year, but I'm excited to participate and get a feel for the competition."

Many participating sophomores became interested after watching the show as freshmen. As for the freshmen, their interest was piqued even earlier in life.

"I first experienced the Academy Awards when I was in seventh grade," said Alyssa Kulesa. "My sister said I should go."

"My sister Libby did it her freshman year, and I thought it'd be fun," said Evie Rickards. "When I went the first time, the first thing that happened was a blast of confetti which started the night off right!"

When asked her motivation to apply, Elfner admitted, "Truthfully, a pact with a friend. I told her I would put my name in if she did, and now we're both in it together."

Joey Bonadonna said, "Actually, Jacob Massart posted on his Instagram story that he signed up, and it reminded me to check my email and put my name in."

Still, despite any previous or current concerns, Notre Dame's latest batch of rampeteers is nothing but eager to work with their partners.

"My partner is Joel Meglic and I couldn't be happier," said Delaney Gallagher. "He's a great guy with a great personality, and I believe he has a great chance at this Academy Awards."

"I have Fritz and I'm super excited," said Alexis Gunderson. "I know him from cross country and getting to know him more will be fun."

"My partner is Maggie Otradovec and I think our chances are very good," said Bonadonna. "If anyone in the show this year has the creativity to make another great Academy Awards memory, it's definitely her."

Interestingly enough, rampeteer participation often continues past their first walk onstage. "A lot of rampeteers as freshmen and sophomores end up auditioning for emcee or as contestants after their initial fun in the show," said Mrs. Brown.

"Now that Mr. NDA has become Academy Awards, there's at least a chance for me, as a rampeteer, to come back and try it from the other side of the stage," said Skylar Schultz.

"I've always wanted to participate," said Bonadonna. "I hope in the future that my peers vote me into being a part of this great event."

"I possibly see myself doing this in the future," considered Kylie Callaway. "I enjoy it and it makes me laugh and have fun."

Overall there is a role for everyone in the great tradition of the Academy Awards.

Q & A with Emcees

The 2020 Academy Awards is almost here. This year's hosts/emcees are seniors Leya Abujamra and Mattea Vecera. Their task is major: write the script for the show and keep the show moving between acts.

Why did you want to emcee?

Mattea: My brother was in the show six years ago, and it was one of his favorite high school experiences. After watching him perform, I knew I wanted to be a part of the show somehow and hopefully experience something similar.

Leya: I have always enjoyed watching the emcees in past years. I have wanted to get involved in the Academy Awards since freshman year and thought that being an emcee would be a great opportunity to do that.

Any concerns about emceeing?

M: I'm nervous something will go wrong backstage, and I'll have to improvise for the audience. I'm going to prepare a few jokes just in case!

L: Making sure we're prepared and I'm always scared of something going wrong, but I know we'll be great.

What do you want all the people coming to the show to know?

M: Everyone in it has worked so hard these past weeks to prepare, and it's going to be such a fantastic show to see.

L: We all have worked hard to make it a great show, and I'm so excited for everyone to enjoy it. I'm also very excited to be part of such a great tradition at NDA.