

Students sample life in New York City's fast lane

By MIKE DAQUANE and JOANNE D'ENTREMOUS
 Theatre arts students
 Last Thursday (April 22), a group of 34 students and two teachers (and Grandma!) travelled to the Big Apple.
 New York city is a much larger city than Toronto in many respects. Population, of course, but size too. There are five boroughs in New York City: Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx.
 During our two day stay in N.Y., we concentrated on most of Manhattan. The only time we actually left the island was to take the ferry to the Statue of Liberty.
 A description of the four-day event:
 Thursday was the stifling, 12-hour bus trip there. Upon arrival we were assigned to hotel rooms and then got settled in. But not for long though. Getting there at 5:30 we had a chance to freshen up and go to a place called "Beeftest Charlie's" for dinner.
 After dinner we had our first Broadway experience, "A Chorus Line". It was an excellent production.
 After the play it was back



A long weekend in the Big Apple was quite a treat for 34 Georgetown District High School students and their chaperones last week. Theatre arts teachers Judith Rossman and Judith Gooding accompanied the could-be-future-Broadway stars on a tour of Manhattan highlighted by visits to several hit productions including "Annie" and "A Chorus Line". Also joined by Gloria Rossman, the students who made the 12-hour bus trip to New York City were Lise Smith, Jill Pomeroy, Alexia Dender, Bruce

to the hotel for the evening. An exciting "gang" meeting in J.R.'s room really topped things off.
 After everyone finally got up in the morning we had a bus tour of Manhattan. Most of the major points of interest were covered such as 5th Avenue, Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral, etc. Then to the World Trade Centre for lunch and a trip to the observatory.
 In the afternoon it was off to the Statue of Liberty. After staying there for an hour and a half we took the ferry back to Manhattan. When we arrived back in Manhattan we took the bus to Chinatown for dinner. Real Chinese food eaten with real chopsticks was a unique experience for everyone.
 To top off the day we saw the evening performance of "Annie" at the most modern Broadway theatre, the Uris.
 Then it was back to the hotel for another "gang" social. These gang get-togethers were just meetings so that the chaperones could speak what was on their mind about our behavior (which was excellent, of course). Also, they'd tell us

An account by GDHS staff and students

about what was going on the next day.
 On Saturday we went on a tour of Radio City Music Hall. It was incredible. It seats more than 2,000 people (but that includes the seats in the washrooms!) The Citicorp centre was our stop for lunch. This building is almost totally lit by the sun which gives it a relaxed atmosphere.
 After lunch we continued our foot tour and eventually brought ourselves to the Biltmore Theatre where we saw the matinee performance of "Deathtrap". It was an incredible play with a lot of twists and turns in the plot.
 After the show we got an hour and a half of free time for shopping in Macy's, which is the world's largest department store.
 After shopping we went back to the hotel to freshen up for the evening performance of "Encore" at the Radio City Music Hall. This

restaurant for an exquisite meal. Then it was back to the hotel for the final "gang" meeting. The next day (Sunday) we were on the road again for the 12-hour trip home.
 Finally, on behalf of the group, I would like to thank the chaperones; Miss Rossman, Ms. Gooding and Mrs. Rossman (Grandma!). Without them the trip would've been a complete zero!

Broadway: Where the lights are always bright and the beggars bum off theatre-goers

By JUDITH ROSSMAN
 GDHS teacher
 In the world of theatre there are two places which have become widely known for their fine productions. One of these is the West End in London, and the other, situated slightly closer, is New York's Broadway.
 There has always been a

certain amount of magical mysticism associated with Broadway. For years people have been writing and singing about it. Broadway is a striving point for actors and actresses. Once they have played Broadway, their careers are well on the way to an upward swing.

The real magic of Broadway, though, is a mixture of the old-fashioned awe-striking mysticism as well as a general feeling of disgust. This can only totally be understood after experiencing a succession of nights in Broadway theatres and on Broadway streets.

There technically are three types of Broadway in New York. Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway are where plays, often of an experimental nature or foreign origin, are produced on shoestring budgets. This is made possible by cheaper running costs and waiving union restrictions.

Broadway theatre on the other hand being more highly recognized than the other two, has to concentrate on plays of wide popular appeal and sustained commercial success. In recent decades this has increasingly meant musicals and light comedies, surefire hits with star casts. The success of these shows is highly dependant on favorable critics verdicts. The term Broadway theatre has become synonymous with a high level of production and acting skill.

After spending some time on Broadway I can honestly say that housed in the theatres there is without a doubt a portion of the world's best productions. Performances are all top-notch. Any kind of play that you are interested in can be located on Broadway.

The New York entrepreneurs know the talent they are dealing with and they capitalize on it. Tickets range in price from \$17 for a balcony seat to \$35 for an orchestra seat. This can, and is done because the demand for live theatre is extremely evident. Not often did I ever see an empty seat in a theatre. Some of the shows are sold out months in advance.

In direct contrast to this are the playhouses with notes stuck to their doors informing patrons that the show has unexpectedly closed and if tickets have already been purchased then refunds are

available. Plays can open and close within the span of a week.
 Being a Canadian and growing up in a spacious and clean country, I found the situation of Broadway quite a surprise. For a place which does as much business as Broadway I feel that it should appear differently. While inside the theatres, one is safe and secluded from the evils that lurk outside. The streets are filthy and over crowded with people. Bums sleep in doorways. A feeling of being safe and secure isn't very evident. This type of nightlife doesn't seem as if it should be characteristic of fantastic Broadway, but one learns quickly that it is a very real part indeed.

New York really IS special if you get used to its pace

By IAN MACLAREN
 Theatre arts student
 "I want to wake up in the city that never sleeps..."
 New York, New York. Broadway, Radio City Music Hall, the Statue of Liberty, Madison Avenue, Wall Street.
 To New Yorkers, and many others, this is where it's at. Some of the best theatre on the continent, the Corporation Headquarters, the United Nations, the World Trade Centre, the ad men, the clothing designers, the money changers. Almost the population of Canada squeezed into this single metropolis.
 When you get down to it, when you get to walking on the streets, New York really IS special. It has a certain "feel" all its own. And despite the bad publicity, it's not the feeling that you're about to get mugged. (Statistically

speaking, N.Y.C. has one of the lowest per capita violent crime rates in the U.S.A.) The feeling about New York is that it's special, that important things, and crucial decisions, are happening all around you.
 That quote at the top is very true, by the way. To "country hicks" (as one kind gentleman put it) like us, Manhattan is definitely a change of pace. It is FAST and always on the go. After a long day of bustling around the busy sidewalk (New Yorkers even walk fast - and they walk everywhere, because cars are impractical) the last thing that you'd expect is to lie awake in your bed in the hotel, wondering what all the noise is about. Cars, people, sirens. Is there a big fire nearby? Some major accident? NO. It's just the normal activity of two o'clock in the morning.
 For instance, in Greenwich Village, one district of Manhattan, the storekeepers don't even bother opening until noon, because they know that no one will be up.
 So, true to its image, New York is a fast city. A city caught up in itself, a city that influences trends the world over.
 And after just four days there, good old Georgetown is a very slow place to return to.

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'Chorus Line' inspiring theatre

By ANGELA TUCKER
 Theatre arts student
 In the historical Shubert theatre the lights dim and there is silence. The orchestra begins to play as the curtains open and the stage lights come on.
 A group of people stand in positions of exercising and warming up but the voice of the director is heard and they quickly move to his commands. He is auditioning dancers for an eight-person chorus line in his new show.
 Each dancer was dressed in his own warm-up attire. Each character's costume, whether it be tight, or shorts and sneakers, brought out a bit of their personality.
 They show their nervousness through their actions as they all stop and psyche themselves up for their auditions. Groups of four await for their cue to relay back all the steps that they have rehearsed many times before, but this time they have to be at their best.
 I really felt a part of the chorus line because I could understand a lot of their feelings and I even tried to put myself in some character's places. Each dancer talked and moved so naturally which really made the play extra believable and very realistic.
 The makeup worn was nothing spectacular; to me it seemed like regular street makeup. The most important feature of each character, whether it be the person's face, feet or hips was brought out and I found this helpful because I knew something special or different about each character by the end of the play, just by looking at them and the way they moved.
 The acting was excellent and I found it exquisitely clever when one character talking about himself would step aside, and would continue to mime out his or her life story while groups of people would come forward and sing and dance, expressing their feelings on how they

felt about the auditions.
 I enjoyed the play extremely and would recommend it to anyone who happens to be in New York and visiting Broadway or wherever it is playing. It's a great musical!

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