Lutheran High School Westland presents
by Christopher Sergel
from the book by Bel Kaufman

Friday and Saturday,
November 6 & 7, 2015 at 7:00 PM
West Gym
33300 Cowan Road, Westland
LHWL Drama Staff

Mr. David Kusch, Drama Director (Spring Play Director & Thespian Advisor)
Mrs. Jeaneen Wyly, Assistant Director of Drama (Fall Play Director)
Dr. John Boonenberg, Music Director (Winter Musical Director)
Lutheran High School Westland
Presents

Up the Down Staircase

by Christopher Sergel
from the book by Bel Kaufman

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33300 Cowan Road, Westland

A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

PLACE: Calvin Coolidge High School, New York City
Time: The mid 1980’s

ACT I
The first day of school
ACT II
Later that term

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.
Refreshments will be provided in the lobby
during the intermission.

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY
OF Woodstock, Illinois.
Cast List

Staff
Dr. Maxwell Clarke (principal) ................. Hunter Roedel
Sylvia Barrett (new English teacher) ........ Lauren Tischler
Bea Schachter (experienced teacher) ........ Becky Priess
Paul Barringer (English teacher) ............... Andrew Bunge
J.J. McHabe (assistant principal) ............ Josh Schwaegelek
Richard Friedenberg (guidance counselor) .... Jonah Lange
Frances Egan (the school nurse) ............... Carina Anderson
Chad Wolf (librarian) ......................... Samuel Goehmann
Samuel Bester (English dept. chair) ........ Brandon Kruger
Michael Finch (administrative ass’t) ........ Bryce Ingersoll

Ellen (Sylvia's friend) ............................. Shala Murray

Students
Lou Martin .............................................. Anders Mattson
Lennie Neumark ...................................... Tim Contreras
Carole Blanca ........................................ Becca Thombs
Alice Blake ............................................ Allison Crawford
Vivian Paine .......................................... Ally Uzarek
Rusty O'Brien ....................................... Chris Gardiner
Linda Rosen ......................................... Hannah Bourdeau
Cast List

Josie Rodriguez.................................................Hannah Coomer
Carrie Blaine.................................................Rebecca Gembarski
Harry Kagan....................................................Ethan Becker
Jill Norris.......................................................Marissa Gonzales
Rachel Gordon.................................................Katie Fodor
Elizabeth Ellis...............................................Jillian Matasovsky
Charles Arrons...............................................Ian Haas
Edward Williams.............................................Jacob Adams
Joe Ferone......................................................Joseph Pranschke
Helen Arbuzzi.................................................Maggie Shasko
Frank Gardiner...............................................Emmett Matasovsky
Karl Wolzow...................................................Matt Reddemann
Other students in Ms. Barrett's homeroom..............
...............Jacquie Brown, Tatiana Bunge, Nailah Stoakley,
                Jenna Wyly, Karley Wixson
Production Staff

Jeaneen Wyly .................................................. Director
David Kusch .................................................. Assistant Director
Don & Donna Ryktarsyk ........................................
..................................................................... Lighting/Sound Board Technicians
John Matasovsky and Mark Bunge ........ Set Construction
David Smith .................................................. Photographer
Caitlin Downer ................................................ Stage Manager
Lena Pennington ............................................. Costume Manager
Allison Crawford ............................................. Makeup Artist
Kaite Genthner, Grace Schneider ........ Makeup Assistants
Marley Long .................................................. Spotlight Operator
Hannah Schneider, Lauren Tischler, Andrew Bunge ........
..................................................................... Publicity
Nathan Ivey, Robert Marshall .................. Stage Crew
Tim Contreras, Allison Crawford, Jillian Matasovsky, Anders Mattson, Joseph Pranschke, Dakota Reusser, Josh Schwaegerle, Judy Schwaegerle .................. Set Crew
Evan Bottrell, Jacquie Brown, Tara Downey, Kaite Genthner, Chiane Reusser, Maggie Smith, Leah Steinkopf, Brieanna Sucharski, Nikolaos Sullivan ........ Set Painting
From the Director

*Up the Down Staircase* is a play to which everyone can relate: we were all students, we've had young teachers, we've been new at a job, and we've had to deal with situations and people we don't agree with. I especially love this play because it so much reminds me of my first year teaching at an urban school--trying to understand the school protocols, learning a set of slang I had never heard before, and having students who smelled "fresh meat." I remember crying every day after my crazy fourth hour English 9 class (which had a student who entered the room and literally stood on a desk and hung from the lights and two girls who stood up and physically fought one day in my class)--and growing close to the seniors who weren't so very much younger than I was. It was one of the hardest years I remember, yet first year teachers have a freshness and enthusiasm that we sometimes lose as we get older and a little jaded. Sylvia Barrett captures that spirit perfectly. More than 20 years after directing this play the first time, I still am drawn to Bea's comments: "Whatever the waste, stupidity, ineptitude, whatever the problems and frustrations, something exciting is going on. In each of the classrooms, all at the same time, education is going on--young people exposed to education. That's how I manage to stand up." And that's why teaching, and directing plays, and leading students closer to the Lord, and spending time talking with teenagers is so exciting. I hope you find *Up the Down Staircase* funny, inspirational, and moving.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to the following individuals who provided special assistance in preparation for the production:

Mrs. Michelle Walker, Mrs. Jodi Hoehne, Mr. Billy Wade, Mr. Kevin Wade, and Mr. Steve Schwecke.

Our thanks go to the parents and supporters who provided dinners for the cast and crew during tech week:

Mrs. Bourdeau, Mrs. Bunge, Mrs. Contreras, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Fodor, Mrs. Kruger, Mr. & Mrs. Matasovsky, Mrs. Schwaegerle, and Mrs. Tischler
Background on the Play

*Up the Down Staircase* is a novel written by Bel Kaufman, published in 1964, which spent 64 weeks on *The New York Times* Best Seller list. In 1967 it was released as a movie starring Sandy Dennis, Patrick Bedford, and Eileen Heckart.

**Plot of the Novel**
The plot revolves around Sylvia Barrett, an idealistic English language teacher at an inner-city high school who hopes to nurture her students' interest in classic literature (especially Chaucer and writing). She quickly becomes discouraged during her first year of teaching, frustrated by bureaucracy, the indifference of her students, and the incompetence of many of her colleagues. The title of the book is taken from a memo telling her why a student was being punished: he had gone "up the down staircase." She decides to leave the public school system to work in a smaller private setting. She changes her mind, though, when she realizes that she has, indeed, touched the lives of her students.

The novel is epistolary; aside from opening and closing chapters consisting entirely of dialogue, the story is told through memos from the office, fragments of notes dropped in the trash can, essays handed in to be graded, lesson plans, suggestions dropped in the class suggestion box, and most often by inter-classroom notes that are a dialogue between Sylvia and an older teacher. Sylvia also writes letters to a friend from college who chose to get married and start a family rather than pursuing a career. The letters serve as a recap and summary of key events in the book and offer a portrait of women's roles and responsibilities in American society in the mid-1960s.

An inter-classroom note in which the older teacher is translating the jargon of the memos from the office includes the memorable epigram "'Let it be a challenge to you' means you're stuck with it." Calling a trash can a circular file comes from the same memo: "'Keep on file in numerical order' means throw in waste-basket."
Adaptations
The novel has been adapted to film and the stage. Tad Mosel wrote the screenplay for the 1967 film version starring Sandy Dennis as the teacher. The play is frequently performed in high schools. The film version was parodied in Mad magazine as "In the Out Exit" in regular issue #118, April 1968. A notable production was the one by Quince Orchard High School (Gaithersburg, Maryland) in November 2007 for their critically acclaimed performance by the National Theatre Critics Association.

Taken from Wikipedia

"Hi, Teach!" are the first words to greet attractive Sylvia Barrett. There's a special happiness in walking into the still-empty classroom and for the first time writing her name on the blackboard. Students pour into the classroom: cautious, testing, challenging. Simultaneously, there's a blizzard of paperwork, warnings, contradictory orders, indecipherable instructions. Frantic, Sylvia begins to fear she doesn't even understand the language. An experienced teacher translates: "Keep on file in numerical order" means throw in wastebasket. "Let it be a challenge" means you're stuck with it. "Interpersonal relationships" means a fight between kids. And "It has come to my attention" means you're in trouble. Soon Sylvia finds herself the most involved person in the school: involved in the start of a romance and in a near war with the discipline-over-everything administrator, but, most of all, involved in the unexpected, sometimes heartbreaking problems of her students. One critic said, "Seldom has a humorous work been at the same time so important."

Taken from the Dramatic Publishing Company catalog
Cast Profiles (in alphabetical order)

Jacob Adams, a freshman, plays Edward Williams, Esquire. He has participated in *Dear Edwina Jr.* and *Check Please* in middle school. His favorite year in school was eighth grade because that was the culmination of all his middle school years.

Ethan Becker, a senior, plays the part of Harry A. Kagan. He has participated in numerous productions during his many years frequenting LHWL, including *Twelve Angry Jurors, Macbeth*, and *Our Town*. His favorite year in school was his junior year, because he got to take part in a once in a lifetime trip to New York and had many good experiences that year.

Hannah Bourdeau, a freshman, plays student Linda Rosen. Her favorite grade was eighth because her class was the oldest at the school, they were confirmed, and they became a closer class altogether, and it was also the easiest academic year. Eighth grade was a year that she will never forget because of all the milestones she achieved.

Andrew Bunge, a junior, plays the part of Paul Barringer, “the glamour boy of the English department.” He has had major parts in many of LHWL’s productions, including George Gibbs in *Our Town* and Diggory in *The Magician’s Nephew*. His favorite part, Dr. Einstein, in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, also included his funniest acting moment. When no one was leaving the stage for intermission, he ad-libbed in his character’s German accent, “*I theenk now wouuld be guud time for eentermeession. You goh now,*” and waved everyone off.

Tatiana Bunge, a freshman, is an extra. This is her first production at Lutheran High. Her favorite grade was second grade because there was never any homework.

Tim Contreras, a junior, plays the part of Lennie and was previously in *The Magician’s Nephew*, *The Taming of the Shrew Explained*, and *Macbeth*. His favorite part of the 80’s was the good music, especially metal.
Cast Profiles (in alphabetical order)

Hannah Coomer, a junior, plays Josie Rodriguez. She has been a part of many LHWL plays such as Annie, the Narnia one-acts, and The Taming of the Shrew Explained. Hannah’s favorite grade was her sophomore year because she loved hanging out with her friends and it was just a lot easier then junior year (and no one likes freshmen year.)

Allison Crawford, a senior, plays the character of Alice Blake. She has previously been the Stage Manager in Our Town, a dancer in The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, and is the makeup manager of the LHWL Drama Department. If she were a teacher, she would teach with Mr. Unger's enthusiasm and musical skills.

Caitlyn Downer, a junior, is the stage manager. She was also a stage manager for The Taming of the Shrew Explained, the costume manager for The Chronicles of Narnia one-acts, and played Lieutenant Rooney in Arsenic and Old Lace. If she were a teacher, she would have class outside and have hot chocolate parties whenever she didn't feel like teaching.

Katie Fodor, a sophomore, is playing the student Rachel Gordon. She says, "if I were a teacher, I would want to teach chemistry. I’d set one thing on fire every day and do a bunch of experiments. It would be a lot of fun."

Christopher Gardiner, a senior, plays Rusty O’Brien. Previously he was in The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe. His favorite school year was the 10th grade. It was very laid back and it had the easiest classes of any of his years of high school.

Rebecca Gembarski, a junior, is playing Carrie. Her favorite year in the school is this year: she knows who her friends are, she is figuring out what she wants to do with her life, and she is just really enjoying all of it.

Samuel Goehmann, a freshman, plays librarian Chad Wolf. In grade school at St. Michael he played G2D2 (robotic warning system) in Blast Off! and GoTee(comedian philosopher) in The Rock Heard 'Round the World. His favorite thing about the '80s was the start of the Space Shuttle, the last great thing the U.S. has done, and is sad that program ended in 2011.
Cast Profiles (in alphabetical order)

Marissa Gonzales, a freshmen, plays the character of Jill and has been in two plays prior to this one. Her favorite school memory is the utmost excitement she felt while waiting for the bus on the first day of kindergarten.

Ian Haas, a sophomore, is in his fourth production at LHWL as Charles and he is very proud of that. He's appeared as Mr. Tumnus from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Officer O' Hara in Arsenic and Old Lace, the Tailor in The Taming of the Shrew Explained. He lives in a family of thespians with his father Kirk, mother Val, and Future Freshman Cole. His favorite thing about the 80's was Star Wars.

Bryce Ingersoll, a junior, plays Administrative Assistant Michael Finch. Previous LHWL productions include Arsenic and Old Lace, 12 Angry Jurors, and Annie. His favorite school year so far would be sophomore year because there was very little homework.

Brandon Michael Kruger, the President of Thespian Troupe #4248 and a senior, is performing as Mr. Bester. This is his 11th production at LHWL. Some of his past roles include Bob Cratchit in A Christmas Carol, the titular role in Macbeth, and Lucentio in The Taming of the Shrew Explained. His favorite thing about the 80’s was the presidency of Ronald Reagan and the leadership of Great Britain's Prime Minister, Lady Margaret Thatcher.

Jonah Lange, a sophomore, is performing the part of Richard Friedenberg, the school guidance counselor. He has also been in The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, The Taming of the Shrew Explained, and Annie. If he were a teacher, he'd want to have fun with his class and do fun activities that would help them better understand the lesson. Also, he thinks being able to keep the class under control is important.

Emmett Matasovsky, a sophomore, is playing Frank and has been in multiple plays. He was Joe Crowell in Our Town, Dr. Harper in Arsenic and Old Lace, and an extra in A Christmas Carol, Annie, Romeo & Juliet, and The Magician’s Nephew/The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe. His favorite grade was kindergarten because he had his mother as his teacher.
Cast Profiles (in alphabetical order)

Jillian Matasovsky, a senior, plays Elizabeth Ellis. Some of her previous productions include Annie, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten, and Romeo and Juliet. Her favorite year of school was her junior year because she has many happy memories with her friends from that year.

Anders Mattson, a junior, plays Lou Martin. He is currently acting in his third play. Anders’s previous roles include Jonathan Brewster in Arsenic and Old Lace, and Horatio in The Taming of the Shrew Explained. Anders’s favorite part of the 80s was all the fantastic music!

Shala Murray, a senior, plays the role of Ellen. Some LHWL drama productions that Shala has performed in are A Christmas Carol, Annie, and Macbeth. Shala’s favorite thing about the 80’s is the music!

Joseph Pranschke is a junior at LHWL playing the part of Joe Feron. He’s also played Hamlet in The Taming of the Shrew Explained. His favorite school year is sophomore year, due to the lack of homework.

Rebekah Preiss, a senior, plays Bea Schachter, and she has previously been seen in The Magic Flute as Princess Pamina, SHREK the musical as Princess Fiona and The Taming of the Shrew Explained as Hortensio’s Widow. Her favorite grade in school was tenth grade because that was the year she transferred to LHWL and got to be with all of her friends again! She thinks that the best part of the 80's was probably the fashion.

Matthew Reddeman, a junior, plays the part of Karl Wolzow. He previously performed in Arsenic and Old Lace as Mr. Gibbs and was part of the pit orchestra for Annie. His favorite year of school is sophomore year because it had the least amount of homework.

Hunter Roedel is a senior performing on stage for his very first time as Dr. Clarke. His favorite school year was junior year because although it is jam-packed with stress and chaos, classmates can strengthen bonds with each other through coping (or complaining) over similar sources of anxiety.
Cast Profiles (in alphabetical order)

Junior Joshua Schwaegerle’s role as Mr. McHabe is his eighth at Lutheran High. He has previously played Mr. Webb in Our Town, Edmund in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and Alan in Arsenic and Old Lace. He is looking forward to becoming a high school history teacher with a plethora of catchphrases like Mr. Unger.

Maggie Shasko is a 9th grader and plays the part of Helen Arbuzzi. She played a part in her 8th grade play, called, We Open Tomorrow Night?! Her favorite year in school was her 8th grade year, because of the play, the DC trip, and all her funny classmates.

Lauren Tischler, a senior, plays Sylvia Barrett. She was in The Magician's Nephew (Polly), The Taming of the Shrew Explained (Tranio), and currently in Almost, Maine (Marvalyn). Her favorite school memory was when she French braided Wesley's hair during tech week of All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. (Wesley paid Lauren to be mentioned in her bio.)

Becca Thombs is in 9th grade. She plays Carole Blanca. This is her first play here at LHWL. Her favorite year in school is 9th grade because she got to make more friends.

Allison Uzarek, a senior, plays the part of Vivian Paine. She has also performed in The Taming of the Shrew Explained as Biondello, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe as the Bear, and 12 Angry Jurors as Juror #5. Her favorite year in school was her freshman year. It was a great chance to start fresh, meet new people and start doing other activities that she had never done before. Besides meeting new people, the dances were her favorite part – especially the annual, awkward freshman-Senior dances that everyone loves!
LHWL Thespian Troupe #4248

Lutheran High School Westland is proud to be a troupe of The International Thespian Society. The Troupe was first chartered in 1987 and re-chartered in 2012.

Our 2015-2016 Thespian Officers
Brandon Kruger, President
Lauren Tischler, Vice-President
Jillian Matasovsky, Secretary
Abby Schafer, Treasurer
Allison Uzarek, Scribe
Becky Preiss and Andrew Bunge, Publicity
Laura Sillanpaa, Activities

Mr. David Kusch, Troupe Director

Current Troupe Members

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<th>Carina Anderson</th>
<th>Brandon Kruger</th>
<th>Hannah Schneider</th>
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<td>Ethan Becker</td>
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Honoring excellence in school theatre
THE INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY
A division of the Educational Theatre Association
Drama Productions

Coming Soon

MARCH 11 & 12, 2016 AT 7PM

Winnie-the-Pooh’s
The House at Pooh Corner

May 20 & 21, 2016
At 7 PM