



Palace Theater Essay

By: Madison Jensen - Grade 6, Hop Brook, Naugatuck

On Thursday January 28th, The Palace Theater in Waterbury hosted a performance of CSI "Live" Let me continue to tell you about the crime scene and what happened.

"If it's not in the report it didn't happen," said David and Sydney's boss. David and Sydney are CSI agents; they are investigating a crime scene. What happened was, at a magic show performed by Max Spade went terribly wrong. Max put his lovely assistant Tracy Diamond inside a box and stuck a blade in it. Max brought a volunteer on the stage and had him hold a spear looking stick. The magician directed were the volunteer should hold it on the box that Tracy was in. Max then took an identical spear and held it on the other side of the box to. After that all you heard was Tracy inside the box scream. That is the crime scene David and Sydney are investigating. They included the crowd a lot because we were there 'recruits' who would help them solve this mystery. First Sydney went over what the assistants name (Tracy Diamond) age (23) what she what was allergic to and her medical history. They were calling people up all the time to the stage. They were also going over what may have caused her to faint. Sydney and David would get e-mails and calls from Max, their boss, and the hospital were Tracy was. It was amazing you just had to be there!!!

Before I continue onto the interviewing, I will tell you about the history of the place this magnificent performance took place. In 1920 the construction began, in 1922 the spectacular Palace Theater opened, but it wasn't named Palace Theater back then, it was called the Poll Palace. If you didn't know this, the Palace (in the house and stage part) is shaped like a megaphone, which means that the performers don't need a microphone! Another cool thing about the Palace is that, it has one of the largest orchestra pits that can hold up to 65 performers. One more interesting fact about the Palace is that you may think that the wall, floor, and the stairwell are marble but guess which one is the REAL marble. The FLOOR!!!! In 1922 it was great, until 70 years later when the Poll Theater shut it's doors for what seemed like for good. But, eventually after 18 years of the place being empty, a

financial investment by the state, the Palace was almost ready to open its doors again after some renovation.

Now is time to interview the two members of the cast. First I'll tell you about the person who played Sydney. Sydney's performer was inspired at age 8 with acting. She loves how her character is intelligent, and if she could change one thing about her character it is that she would let David (her assistant) take the lead more. One of the people interviewing asked if they had any dreams or if they are living it now. Sydney's performer said that she loves her living and also said "Who wouldn't love playing make-believe and dress-up for a living!" One last thing is she thinks that her character is organized. Now David's performer. David's actor said that he didn't get fully inspired until the age of 14. He loves how his character is crazy and he likes his character the way he is! When the person asked if they have any dreams David's performer replied, "I would like to shoot a movie or work on Broadway." David's performer also likes that his character is zany!!

If anyone asked me if I had a good experience with this program I would say yes and that it doesn't need improving. This program is a learning experience for all of the students fortunate enough to attend.

The Palace Theater: CSI Journalism Program
By: Kyla Drewry - Grade 4 Community School, Prospect

Here I am at the Palace Theater. I have to go meet up with my tour guide Karen Streeter. I'll catch up with you after the show.

Wow! The show was great and so was our tour guide. We learned a lot about the Palace Theater.

First of all, it was built in 1920 and opened 2 years later, in 1922. When it first opened, there were a multitude of shows you could have chosen to come see. Anything from singers, to circuses, to silent movies! In fact, once a magician came and he asked for them to cut a hole in the stage. The workers at the Palace did cut him the hole, and after the show, it was filled back in. Some time afterwards, a circus came to the Palace and there was an elephant coming. During the show, however, when the elephant came on stage, he fell through the hole made for the magician. It was a big accident, and in the end, the elephant died. How unfortunate! Anyway, the Palace has a lot of history!

The show was phenomenal! It started off showing the scene of the crime, which we had to pay close attention to. There was a magician's assistant who was injured during the act were the saws go through a box she stepped into. However, the assistant was knocked out somehow. The only other person the stage beside the assistant and the magician was a volunteer from the audience. Then, CSI arrived to try to figure out what happened to the assistant, whose name was Tracy Diamond.

The CSI people looked at many different theories of what may have caused Tracy to be knocked out. They looked through her health profile, and examined many things such as were blood might be, what was inside the box, (a water bottle, with Quentin in it some thing Tracy is very allergic to, a flashlight, and a chip of wood from the box) and many other things as well.

During the performance, the CSI crew, David and Sidney, brought up volunteers from the audience to help them look at different things, and collect evidence.

Once we had all our evidence and found out what happened (Tracy got hit in the head with the flashlight which was fired out of the cannon on one side of the box) we came up with our suspects. The suspects were Larry, the stage manager of the magic show, Max, the magician himself, and the volunteer from the audience.

Finally came the moment of truth, the DNA samples they took from the flashlight that came in from the lab was none other than... YOU HAVE TO SEE THE SHOW!

The show held great suspense, and the audience really got to interact with the crime investigation. It was a great show, and also very educational, that many kids should go to.

Also, after the show, our group of 6 got to go backstage and interview the cast. We found out that the actors real names were Teresa and Bear. They are from Toronto, Canada, and love acting. We also learned, that they have 1 week of rehearsals for the show, and it takes about 2 ½ hours to set up the stage. Just another reason to see this fantastic show!

CSI: The Inside Scoop

By your paparazzi: Jordan Theroux, Community School, Prospect

Here we are at the Palace Theater at eleven A.M. on a snowy January 28, 2010 for the CSI Live program. "Come on! Let's get our seats!" Just recently, I, Jordan Theroux, went to CSI Live as a "press reporter" or a.k.a. "the Paparazzi". As a journalist, I was able to go backstage with the stars of the program and ask questions. I asked both performers what inspired them to become actors. Both Teresa and Bear, the actors in the show, were always interested in theater. Teresa was involved in performing since she was eight years old. I also asked if they helped to write the script. They helped create the script, but they were not the writers. When I asked them to describe their characters, Teresa described her character as very neat and someone who always wants to do everything first. In the show we could see that when she didn't let Bear joke around as they were looking for clues. Bear described his character as "the fun one". He likes to joke around. In the show, he wanted to electrocute a child. That was funny and it showed that he was not as committed as Teresa was to solving the crime. The two actors, Bear and Teresa, expressed that they have always been involved in theater so this show was a big opportunity for them. CSI Live helped the audience to use their skills in science to solve a crime. Children were asked to go up on stage and get clues or help solve a puzzle. I think that more schools should try the journalism program next year. Karen Streeter, a Palace Theater volunteer, says, "It is a great program for kids." The journalists were able to tour the Palace and learn about its history. We also got to leave school and practice science and writing in a unique way. I hope more students will join this program next year. I know I will again.

CSI Live

By: Tiesha Blizzard

On January 28, 2010 middle and elementary students filled the house to see the phenomenal show *CSI: Live*. The beginning was a mix of colorful lights. Max Spade walks in the crowd taking our very own teacher Mr. Battisti on stage! The assistant Tracy goes in an electric box. Max Spade electrifies the box using the stick the top of which is electric. Tracy then opens the door and falls out unconscious. Mr. Battisti runs off the stage and Max Spade disappears. CSI comes to investigate. The truck comes on before David and Sydney, the CSI investigators. They tell us we all are recruits and must remain here. Two kids are selected to go on stage--a girl from WAMS and a guy from Pearson. They tell us 60% of fingerprints are loops, 30% are whorls and 5% are arches. The kids have to investigate with them. David dances in the chamber and the chamber has normal levels of CO₂. They find blood on the blade and fingerprints. They believe Tracy was poisoned with water. The kids then leave the stage. They bring Larry who is a suspect and is the stage manager. They find out that Tracy didn't have an allergic reaction but instead a head injury.

Logan, a 6th grader at WAMS, goes onstage. They locate a confetti can. They test it out. The flashlight could have gone through the can and through the wood hitting Tracy, therefore knocking her out. They use watermelon as a test to test it out as the head. It gives a serve result. Someone had to have put the flashlight the flash lit in the canon. Suspects are Mr. Battisti, Larry and Max. They use the scream for the prime suspects turned out to be Max. He's a failed magician. Mr. Battisti, who we thought was just a teacher, turns out to be a criminal! He has powder and finger prints on the flashlight. They arrest him. The beginning is repeated but this time when Tracy goes on the box she disappears. The lights show goes and soon enough it is over.

CSI Live Review

By: Jack McKernan - Memorial Middle School, Middlebury

At first, I did not know what to expect from Mad Science's version of *C.S.I. Live!*. However, the two-person show kept my attention throughout the performance, making me laugh and think at the same time. These things are exactly what I look for when I watch a play or movie. The two colorful characters, David and Sydney, creatively used the audience to their disposal, calling up volunteers onto the stage and asking their help to piece together what happened at the scene of the crime. All I can tell you is that the plot revolves around two CSI workers who are investigating a crime that happened at a magic show. The fast paced events leading up to the ending will make you gasp in surprise at the conclusion.

After the show ended, I got to talk to the cast members back stage for a few minutes. I learned a lot about the other sides of David and Sydney. Both of them rehearse a week before the show, and I asked them if they ever got nervous or anything beforehand. They both laughed and said no, since they had done this show literally hundreds of times. David likes to get energized before stage time, and Sydney likes to have everything organized. I asked them what made them like their jobs so much and they both replied that they loved listening to the audience's reaction. Their show tours all around the country, and they have played in major cities like Seattle and New York. David hopes to be in movies some day, and Sydney's dream is to star in "Les Miserables" in New York. I think I would have had more fun with the play if I was a little younger, so I would recommend this show mainly to kids ages 8 to 12, but adults could definitely enjoy the performance as well. I give *C.S.I. Live!* two thumbs up.