

Drama Production Class Memories



Top row: Mindy Saal, Mr. David Farley, Stephanie Seymour, Barry Tuchman, Dennis Hammer, Sheila Tompkins, Bill Riley, Bob Minkus, Gary Mussell, Pat Barker (S63 back for a visit.) Bottom row: Linda Honzel, Laura Fetterman, Leanne Schy, Chuck Moshontz, Brian Helstein, Maddy DiMaggio, Shiela Kirby.

Mr Farley was always drawn to Shakespeare –era plays, which were quite difficult to speak clearly, and to make sure the audience understand what was going on. Often we had to cut out whole sections because the humor was considered inappropriate for teenagers (like we hadn't heard it before!) but also because the plays often dragged on for up to 3 hours in length and nobody could endure Elizabethan pentameter for that long. In retrospect, we probably could have had more successful productions with more contemporary playwrights, but then we could not grow up to brag to our own children about once playing Henry II, or Falstaff, or Romeo, or Juliet!



Stage Crew –

We could not have gotten very far without the patience and skill of the crew that built the sets and handled sound and lighting.

We had a tradition of always changing our minds about the scenery right up to the day of the first performance, and a few times we actually went on stage with the paint still wet around us!

The challenges to produce *The King and I* with microphones for the actors, music cues, choir risers, props for the modern dance numbers, etc could have overwhelmed everyone but Mr. Morford and his team always did an excellent job!



Mr. Farley's "Period 4" Drama II class produced a couple of one act plays each semester, and performed them in room A4 of the Academic building, which had a small stage in front. This was the training ground for those who would go on to Drama Production ("Period 7").



Rehearse! Rehearse! Seems all we ever did. During class, between classes, in the hallways and senior quad, the student body could often look outside their classroom windows and see small groups of actors appear to be talking to themselves or perhaps yelling Shakesporean curses at the sky. Some found it quite amusing and others quite annoying, but over the years the Drama Department won many awards, so it was worth it!



Putting on a play almost always required that the actors wear makeup to age themselves and to look like they belonged in a different century. Many in the class (Sue Kirby, Barry Tuchman, and Shiela Kirby come to mind) got really good at making their classmates look just right for the part they were playing. This was a special challenge for *The King and I*, where so many of the support cast had to wear "skull caps" so that their heads appeared to be shaven. Of course, Gary and Ted took one for the company by actually shaving their heads for their roles! (At right, Sue Kirby applies a beard to Gary Mussell for *Romeo and Juliet*.)