



The Sentinel

June 2023

Check us out online!



Gone but Not Forgotten

The Hillhouse community has dealt with a great deal of loss since the end of the COVID Pandemic. The past 2 years have been particularly difficult. We would like to take time to think back on all those we've lost and cherish the memories we had. (p. 9)



Hillhouse Band performs concert after a 4+ year hiatus. (p 5)

The Halls

Solutions to the hallway issues.

Staff and students chime in on the hallway issues, and how we can work together to change it. (p.9)

G.O.T. Corner

See what the Top Ten students of the graduating class of 2023 have to say... (p. 2)

What's inside...

Entertainment- pg. 2

Student Life- pg. 6

Community- pg. 4

Sports- pg. 7

Horoscopes- pg. 8



The Sentinel

June 2023

Looking for something to do this summer? Check out our Summer Reading/ Watch Lists in the Entertainment section pg. 4

Academic Theater Company Presents: Little Shop of Horrors

By Mila Volpe

Photos By Madeline Erb



Pictured above: Amelia Tamborra-Walton and Sora Matta getting ready for the show

This past spring, the Academic Theatre Company put on a devilishly delectable production of Little Shop of Horrors, the cult-classic musical created by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman in the early 1980s. The ATC rendition invoked side-splitting laughter and standing ovations. The show ran from March 23-25, in which they put on 4 spectacular performances. Their small but mighty cast of 8 succeeded in showing the Hillhouse community just how fun and gratifying being in a musical can be. The close-knit group's comfort with one another showed on stage through their hilarious physical comedy, stage presence, and overall performances. This group carefully crafted this musical into a spectacular showstopper. If you saw it, then you know how truly magical their performance was. Each actor portrayed their role with nuance and an extreme amount of care. If you missed this performance, then you're in luck! A video of the entire show was posted on the Academic Theater Company's Youtube account.

LSOH centers around Seymour Krelborn (Finn Crumlish), a geeky, but loveable botanist who brings a new plant into the window of Mr. Mushnik's (Warren Leftridge) failing flower shop. Seymour endearingly names the plant Audrey II, after his soft-spoken workplace crush Audrey (Ameila Tamborra-Walton). He quickly realizes that Audrey II (Jack Marchand, Voice; Janae Branham, Puppeteer) has a bloodthirsty appetite. Through scare-tactics and soulful singing, Audrey II convinces Seymour to feed him Orin (Jose Saez), Audrey's sadistic dentist-boyfriend. On closing night, Sora Matta, who portrayed the urchin Crystal, proclaimed "It was great! I am crying because now it's over. I had fun with all these people and I love them they're like my family, my second family... I can't wait to do this again next year." The Academic Theatre Company had another show programmed for earlier in this season titled Milk Like Sugar, which starred Sora as well as other familiar faces from the program. Unfortunately, Milk Like Sugar was canceled.

Despite a sense of sadness for a show never performed, the group was able to shift their focus solely to Little Shop of Horrors, which required an extreme amount of dedication and commitment from the cast. Little Shop of Horrors is the Academic Theatre Company's second successful musical, after last year's triumphant BKLYN. BKLYN was the first full length musical put on by Hillhouse in 13 years. It starred recurring cast members Jack Marchand, Janae Branham and Sora Matta, along with Regina Santana, a Hillhouse '22 graduate who co-directed and choreographed Little Shop. In 2020, ATC's production of The Wiz was canceled due to the COVID pandemic. However, the determined director and founder of the Academic Theatre Company. With help from Hillhouse English teacher Tim Kane, Ty Scurry brought theater back to Hillhouse with BKLYN, and

see ATC p. 3

G.O.T. & Top Ten c/o 2023

By Kate Kim



Chakour Baio- Mr. Hillhouse 2022-23 showing off his Dr. Facilier outfit during Spring Spirit Week's Disney Day Photo courtesy of- J. Zelenski

We sat down with Mr. Hillhouse and asked him to leave us with some words of advice and this is what he said:

"You won't remember the hard times, you'll only remember the accomplishments, so achieve it all while you can."

"Leave with no regrets. The last thing you want to do is to look back 10, 20 years and think "I wish I did this".

Let's see what some of his peers said See G.O.T. (p. 6)

Sentinel Staff Box

Writers:

H. Chow- Yen, J. Jaranilla, K. Kim,
W. Leftridge, R. Rubertone,
M. Volpe

Photographers:

H. Chow- Yen, M. Erb, W.
Leftridge

Advisor: R. Mitchell

Support Staff: K. Barbero, R.
Pizzonia

Principal: Mr. Mark Sweeting

(cont'd. ATC)

continued the program's legacy through Little Shop of Horrors. Mr. Kane was approached by Scurry when he was a senior at Wilbur Cross High School. According to Mr. Kane, "He [Ty Scurry] came over and said 'I want to start a drama club at Hillhouse, because I know there is a lot of talent here and people who want to do theater. We just need to build it from the ground up and this is where I want to do it.'" Mr. Kane has been a long-time theater and arts enthusiast in the New Haven community. When approached by Ty, he immediately said yes. In Little Shop, Mr. Kane designed, built, and painted all of the sets. He hopes for more student and parent involvement in all aspects of the show next year, including set-design. "I really want to get more people involved because our sets could be incredibly amazing. I mean, we did a good job this year, just putting things together and we had a very small space to work with, so I couldn't really build anything huge. But, for next year, I don't know what show we're going to do, but if we do something that is set-heavy, we want to make sure that we have the people and skillset to do it." Some may be confused on what exactly the Academic Theater Company is. According to their YouTube channel, "The Academic Theatre Company or House Drama Club is THEE theatrical & dramatic arts performance and education after school club of James Hillhouse High School in New Haven, Connecticut." To put it plainly, the Academic Theater Company is Hillhouse's drama program. When posed with the question directly, Scurry responded "The Academic Theatre Company is a culmination of student actors, technicians, leaders, activists, [and] enthusiasts. People who just want to have a good time and show why they want to be on the stage. We are a family. We are a really big family, and we want people to come and join!" If any student out there is interested in performing, helping, or learning about technical and musical theater, then the Academic Theater Company is for you! Ty encourages any and all Hillhouse students with an interest to join in. You can contact the Academic Theater Company directly through their website, which includes links to their Instagram and Facebook. You can also locate Mr. Kane in the building, and he can provide you with more information. Anyone who wishes to support the Academic Theater Company can become a sponsor, or donate any amount here on their website.



Jose Saez as the 'Dentist!', Sora Matta and Laila Wooten (rear)

In a brief interview on closing night, I asked Ty what the next steps are for his cast and crew. "Really excited about what we have coming up! We have our annual STAGGERS awards, we have HALOS and Sondheims, hopefully we get nominated!" HALOS are an annual red carpet gala for high school drama productions. They award students and theater companies from over 80 Connecticut high schools for acting, lighting, singing, directing and more! Sondheim Awards are a similar situation, and they take place on June 5th. The cast and crew of Little Shop of Horrors hope to be nominated for these prestigious nights! The STAGGERS Award Show is presented by the Academic Theater Company, and it will be held on June 1st. When asked to elaborate, Scurry said "We announce next year's season of shows on June 1st and the Staggers awards." He emphasizes the 's' at the end of shows with a huge smile on his face. The cast and crew of Little Shop are extremely excited to find out what next year's productions will be. Ty clearly plans on having multiple shows, which will put a multitude of Hillhouse talent in the spotlight. He also sneakily mentioned that some of the shows they have planned for next year are "huge!" "We want as many people as possible to come and join in next year," he says. Again, any and all Hillhouse students are encouraged to partake in the Academic Theater Company, and join their welcoming family in being a part of the next productions!



From left: Walton, Bridge, and a Paulina Walton, and Jose, all from Spring show One.

New Haven Gets More... Candidates

By: Staff

Crime rates, teacher retention, Tent city and the homeless or otherwise transient population; these are just some of the issues that Mayoral- elects are discussing this year. The 2023 Mayoral election is quickly approaching, but do you know who your candidates are?

Mayor Justin Elicker is fighting for a third term, while new incumbents like, Liam Brennan, a former federal prosecutor, Tom Goldenberg, former consultant for McKinsey & Co., Shafiq Abdussabur, retired police officer and former Alderman, and Wendy Hamilton, a former nurse and city philanthropist all want the chance to “change” New Haven. Who has the heart of New Haven in mind?

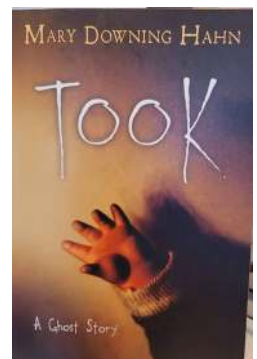
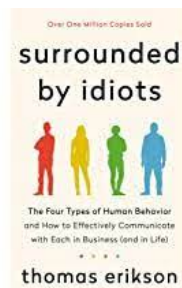
Many locals struggle to decide which candidate cares about the residents of New Haven and not just the relationship the city has with organizations and institutions such as Yale University.

This is a very unique city with unique issues. It takes a special person to come in and unify a currently segregated demographic.

Some other issues that are being discussed amongst officials and incumbents are the expansion of Tweed International Airport, and the issues associated with current air traffic in the Morris Cove/ Annex neighborhoods. There is a divide on what is happening in New Haven with the increase of Methadone clinics. Some say it is unfair to our residents to open such clinics in our neighborhoods, while others see the rehabilitation facilities as necessary. What do you think? Make sure to follow local news outlets like, The New Haven Independent, to stay current on local news and election updates!

Summertime To- Dos

Looking for something to do this summer? Take a look at our book and watchlist, or maybe see a concert at the Westville Music Bowl or College Street Music Hall.



Girl In Pieces- Kathleen Glasgow
Six of Crows- Leigh Bardugo
Surrounded by Idiots- Thomas Erikson
Took- Mary Downing Hahn

The Band is Back!

By Hsiu- Mei Chow- Yen



Photos: above: Band performs opening number on May 9th. Below: Mr. Joshua Smith directs band.- H. Chow-Yen photo credits.

Tuesday, May, 9th was James Hillhouse's band first performance since before the quarantine in 2020. This Michael Jackson tribute included his hits like, Billie Jean, Thriller, Smooth Criminal, and you guessed it, Bad. The audience sang along to the familiar hits, as the unique renditions filled the auditorium. The band played beautifully, I give them 5 stars. You could really see and hear the effort they put into the performance as well as the time. The Hillhouse Band not only performed this tribute, but plays locally at city events and schools year – round. Traditionally the band is a staple at Hillhouse events like Pep Rallies, talent shows, and football games. These are some of hardest working kids around.

Not only did the band do great but so did the host and conductor Mr. Joshua Smith. He is not only the band director, but a Hillhouse Alum. His House pride shines through, as keeping the band together is no easy feat. He kept the night fun and entertaining, as the audience was attentive and smiling from start to finish. We even asked for an encore. Interested in playing with the band? Don't be shy, see Mr. Smith in the Band Room today!



“Live Fearlessly” is The Motto of the Top Ten of 2023

Staff reporter, Kate Kim sat down with the seniors to get some farewell messages and words of advice. Please take a moment to appreciate these quips of wisdom from the Hillhouse class of 2023 Top Ten!

Nyla Williamson

“Don’t do things in fear. Whatever you want to do, be bold with it”

The Fall Sports Fair was a memorable experience for me; It was great to see everyone come together and see our community grow.

Julia Rosado

“If there are things that you want to try, just go try them. Join the band, do debate team, try a sport. Don’t wait until senior year and wish you had done it before, because high school is the best time to explore things.”

Elsa Holahan

“Invest in yourself, the school community, and in any way that incorporates your passions while being open to trying new things... powerful.”

“I think the most valuable thing I’ve gained while being at Hillhouse was being in the community with my peers and fostering irreplaceable relationships with many people. These relationships and state of being in community with one another heightened my feelings of pride and joy when participating in the school walkout my junior year. We were all in solidarity in our fight towards better and more just schools.”

Jack Marchand

“Handle your business when you’re supposed to. It’s only gonna get harder.”

“One memorable moment happened last year. There was a party in the courtyard for the juniors. It was a celebration for the class for our hard work.”

Damarley Barrett

“Stay in school, work hard like Jamaicans, and surround yourself around the right company”

“Good memories I have of Hillhouse are the day I got promoted in JROTC to Lieutenant Colonel, and when in Mrs. Forstrom’s freshman capstone, the icebreakers were super fun.”

Glesly Diaz Juarez

Despite the tests and homework, we had fun with our classmates and were happy. Extreme happiness came with the dismissal bell. Force yourself to remember the answer to a test. There was nothing worse than having to come forward and speak for the first time with your teachers in English. Being speechless when the teacher asks you for opinions.

“Education is what remains after forgetting what has been learned in school.” “Teaching is leaving a mark in a person’s life that allows them to make a change in the future.” “Never give up.” “You have finished your homework. That will be worth a point,” the teacher always said.

Khakola Khan

“I didn’t dream of being successful. I worked hard for it.”

“The king didn’t just wake up wearing the crown and call himself a king; he worked hard to achieve the crown.”

“What I will take away from Hillhouse is having best friends and creating beautiful memories together.”

Yahya Khan (not pictured)

“Experience is the greatest teacher.”

Milton Santos

“From the bottom of my heart, I want to say to all the students to keep working hard in and out of school, and always complete your assignments. The time invested in school is not a waste. It is productive time for us to learn new things that will be effective for the rest of our lives.”

“Special memories were when I first came to school. I met teachers and classmates who helped me a lot. I really appreciate these people. I remember the day they told me that I was one of the top ten students. Hearing that news was something very exciting because even though I am not a native speaker of English, I managed to be part of the top ten.”

Gabriel Hortas- Colon

“Do your best and make time for yourself”



Play Ball!

By: Mila Volpe

It's baseball season! The Hillhouse Varsity Baseball team has a record of 11-6 so far this year. They are 1 win away from beating the school record. Coach Voelker told us that they will be heading to the playoffs in a couple weeks. Make sure to catch their playoff game the Tuesday after Memorial Day (5/30)! When asked about the team's improvement from last season, Voelker said that "This year we have experienced players versus last year we had some inexperienced players. The experience is kicking in and we were able to hold our own in the competitive games." He also mentioned that the JV team is developing their skills, as they picked up a win early in the season and are looking for their second.

Coach Voelker also gave shout outs to some of the Varsity star players this season. Yabdriel "Yaddy" Gonzalez-Coste, who is a student at Metropolitan Business Academy, threw a no-hitter against Wilbur Cross at a recent game, and was selected by Perfect Game USA as a PreSeason All Region senior. Other star players include Yadiel Gonzalez-Serrano "Lil Yaddy" and Josh Britto, both sophomores Hillhouse students, and Henry Rugamer, a junior at ESUMS. When asked about his experience playing for Hillhouse, Henry said that "Playing at Hillhouse is fun! It's a big commitment, but the community is great. I don't actually go to Hillhouse but it's fun to drive there after school every day and spend 2-3 hours with my best friends." Josh Britto added that "This year we have been doing alot better." When asked what he thinks is attributing to the success, he added "winning some important games."



Track is Life

By Javen Jaranilla

Track and field can be one of the most demanding sports in terms of physical and mental capabilities. However, the feeling of running your fastest, throwing down your farthest, or even jumping to your highest brings an athlete over to cloud nine.

With the girl's win at Class M State Championships a few months ago and the entire team placing second at SCC East Sectionals recently on the 16th, Ta'Niyah Mabry, a senior at the Hillhouse Track team, has a few thoughts to share about the sport.

Hard work is more important than talent when it comes to track. It doesn't matter if you're the fastest when your form breaks down in the end," She said. "With the coaches guiding everyone throughout the workouts, we're getting stronger and stronger each day. Not everyone is going to beat their PR (personal record) at each meet, but it's not the end of the world. You just have to continue pushing yourself in practice."

While the workouts will have you questioning your life's existence by the end, there is nothing that can replace the happiness you experience after seeing your progress throughout the season. The medals you earn in the end and the smiles you share with teammates are one of life's most cherished moments.

Spring 2023- Originally printed March 2023

By Javen Jaranilla
Hsiu- Mei Chow-Yen
Rhieanna Rubertone

Capricorn- Dec 22d - Jan 19th

This month it will feel like everyone is taking their feelings out on you but it is important to stand strong. Whether or not you are in a socializing mood others will still come to you for reassurance, comfort and advice. Through your compassionate nature you will find comfort with being able to help others. Be sure to not only focus on others but yourself as well by directing your energy accordingly. You should practice meditation so you can reclaim misused energy. Doing so will allow you to regain clarity and messages from beyond.

Aquarius- Jan 20 - Feb 18

Emotional security will become more important, especially during Virgo's full moon on March 7. You will feel called to cut ties with people who don't meet your needs. Prevent yourself from acting impulsively. Exercise with caution. Unforeseen obstacles and hidden dangers might unveil themselves to you if you're uncertain where your actions will lead. Pay no mind to your ego as it will lead to large purchases or shopping sprees. The last few days of March are a reminder to reconnect with family and friends.

Pisces- Feb 19 - March 20

Finding yourself at the last of the signs, this month will turn that around! Continue pursuing your goals despite facing a few obstacles. The Virgo full moon on March 7 can help you find balance and harmony as you work toward your dreams while also elevating your love life. In addition, you will feel compelled to set smart boundaries between yourself and others. Harsh energy from Mars can bring deception and friction, causing you to think twice about your beliefs. Avoid following undetailed plans that skip over important details

Aries- March 21 - April 19

Pisces season will push you to examine your choices. Moments of realization and uncomfortable truths will allow you to move beyond behaviors and situations that are no longer serving you. You will find yourself in a unique position to find closure and tie up any loose ends. Be sure to find time for solitude too, though your mind will be a busy place through much of the month. You'll soon have a chance to settle and find harmony. These vibes are all about embracing luxury and appreciating your surroundings, though you'll also be asked to nurture your financial health. Halfway through March, clarity will come through, sharpening your wits and desire to succeed.

Taurus- April 20 - May 20

You will feel more sensitive to collective energy this month, as Pisces season affects your chart that governs community. Pay close attention to any emotional shifts that suddenly wash over you because your empathic abilities are sure to be sharpened. Monitor your consumption of news. Restrict any information that may cause you grief. Though being informed is important, research ways to help you escape feelings of helplessness especially when you're stuck in a system that will never change. The universe will work overtime to help you reach your goals, allowing you to manifest easily; however, don't forget to feel gratitude to appreciate everything you've done

Gemini- May 21- June 20

The season of spring will be a rough season leaving you confused and lost. Get more serious about your goals and what you want to achieve. You are known for being a social butterfly and will attract many friendships, but be careful and aware of your new found relationships and make sure you know the intentions of others. You'll be more emotional than usual and or stubborn. You'll need a break from people and the main stressors in your life, try detaching yourself from the drama and taking time for yourself to reflect and go out more or connect with nature.

Cancer- June 21st- July 22

The season of spring will bring you luck. This spring you will shine bright and gain confidence but make sure you stay true to yourself (because you're so compassionate, don't let your ego get in the way of yourself), goals, and needs, making sure you worry about you, getting your mind together and focusing on your dreams. Consider meditating more and getting to know your true self and what you enjoy as well as focusing on your likes and activities.

Leo- July 23- August 22

The season of spring is all about focusing on bettering yourself, you're known for your bubbly personality and confidence but looks can be deceiving. This season try meditating more and loving yourself. You will encounter lots of self doubt, but try to center yourself in this journey of finding out what you love and what makes you, you. This season you'll have a lot of luck, be sure to elevate your thinking and be more considerate to others who might not be so lucky. With that being said, know your intentions and make sure you do right by you.

Virgo- August 23- September 22

The season of spring will be focusing on opening up with your loved ones. You also need to work on your boundaries and relationship with friends, making sure they are healthy and you are understood. Go for what you want, do what you love and share it with the world. Help inspire others and inspire them with your creativity, but don't forget about you and your needs also taking time out the day for you.

Libra- Sep 23d - Oct 22d

This month you will achieve a lot which will replenish your energy. However you will need to fuel your body appropriately to maintain your energy level, making it important that you devote plenty of attention to your wellness and nurturing your health mentally and physically. These vibes can lead to new relationships and or business opportunities. Regardless of your circumstances, the Universe will ask you to embrace change and personal transformation. Accept what is going to happen and let it happen, its needs to happen.

Scorpio- Oct 23rd - Nov 21st

This month you need to focus on not letting your quick anger reactions get the best of you. Stop dwelling on the past and old routines and people and start to work towards the future. Recognize what changes have happened around you. Not dwelling on the old and noting what changes happen around you will be able to show you that you need to let go of whatever no longer serves you. Your aura will elevate. Remember to reclaim your energy and nurture yourself after each milestone that you hit.

Sagittarius- Nov 22d - Dec 21st

This month you will feel stronger within yourself. You will also make extreme progress towards your goals. Don't stop. Things that you set in motion will have tremendous effects that will continue as time passes. Your approach to life will also change which will affect your opinions on certain things. New relationships will begin to be built. It's time to have fun, including a spring fling. You should focus on yourself mentally and physically and give yourself some love! Your overall mood, motivation, confidence, creativity will increase intensely.

The Halls- Finding Solutions to the Problems

By Staff

Interviews by Warren Leftridge

James Hillhouse High School holds many records. Of course in our athletic divisions, we soar. We have one of the best Math Teams in the region, and many of our students go off to attend some of the most prestigious schools in the country. There are always at least two sides to every great story, and here at Hillhouse we are no different.

Since the end of the pandemic, it has been considerably difficult to get "back to normal." Students are fighting in hallways, Smoking in bathrooms, and suspensions seem to happen regularly. So what do we do about these behaviors that are affecting our student body and school culture? We asked various members of the Hillhouse Community to chime in.

Jack Marchand, a senior at Hillhouse says this about the fights, "We need to talk to kids having issues and stop fighting before it starts." Jack, like many upperclassmen, spent just about half of their high school years remote or hybrid. Coming back to school and seeing students fighting is saddening. Mr. Sweeting, our newly appointed principal shares similar sentiments. "I didn't take it

[fighting] growing up in the projects of the South Bronx." Mr. Sweeting continues by saying that most young people do not understand the "fragility of life." Fights in school can lead to something else, and though a solution must be found, he is not too sure if suspension is the answer. "Suspension is a touchy subject," he continues. But Mr. Sweeting is not the only adult who thinks so.

One educator says that though she sees suspensions being made, she is not so sure it is solving the issue. She notes that "weed" is a major issue this year. "Students are smoking [vaping] in the bathrooms with no real consequences. Though she admits she is not sure what the solution can be, she says more training and interventions from qualified personnel may help.

Students like Marchand say the issue is that some students think it's "okay to smoke in school," and though Mr. Pizzonia does not see all the issues surrounding weed use in school, he says "The whole school community is responsible for reducing the number of fights that occur... as far as weed goes, I think the same applies." Mr. Pizzonia outlines every stakeholder and their possible contribution to the solution, from Administration, Deans and teachers, to the support staff, students and parents. He even said that Central Office has a role to play in intervening in the issues we have here at Hillhouse.

Some students, like Isaac Perry feel like issues like these are messing with the reputation of

Hillhouse in Mourning

By : Staff

It is the unfortunate reality that we live in a time and place where tragic loss has become so frequent. It almost feels as though the COVID- 19 pandemic exacerbated that fact. We would like to take a moment to share our deepest condolences with the Hillhouse community, as we are aware that so many have been struggling with grief at this time.

In late November 2021, The New Haven community suffered the lost of Camryn Gayle, a senior at Cooperative Arts High School.

Camryn, known to her friends and family as "Mooka" was a cheerleader with the Hillhouse Lady Academics. Her loss has greatly affected the community as a whole. Soon after this tragedy came the loss of Keiron Jones, a junior who would have graduated this year. Keiron was adored by his friends and teachers and is sorely missed.

This year has too been rough, having loss Bryan Ramirez Gutierrez, member of JROTC and class of 2023 earlier this year; our cafeteria worker, Mr. Troy Kelies, and most recently, Marc Antoine Mukulay Mulongo, sophomore.

In Memoriam



Always

If I die before I'm due
When my time is done
but my body's new
Bury me where flowers grew
and leave a space, I'll wait for you

And if you cry, don't cry too long
You'll hear my voice in every song
You'll feel my touch in every breeze
and feel my love for if you please

I know I did not want to go
To watch you grow you'll never know
The love I had inside of me
The love that now has been set free

So if I die before I'm due
take my words and feel them true
My heart and soul become anew
As I am here inside of you
- R. Mitchell

