

Beauty and the Beast: A Collaboration

Students in the ceramics, drawing, and the painting electives worked parallel to this year's drama class theatrical montage of Walt Disney's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Collaboration between the different disciplines has occurred for centuries, yet nothing is more apparent than bringing words to life through performance. Staging, memorization, body language, tone of voice, voice inflections, and voice projection also partake in the craft. Other elements that work around the actor's performance, such as stage management, make theatre a magical place. All of these are successful thanks to the producer and director; however, none of this is possible without the writer.

In the visual arts, we have also crossed this bridge: the visual arts have supported theatrical productions in prop making, scene design, fashion design, and scenery painting. In animation, they use all of the above in the representation of objects, wardrobe, and landscaping. Architectural elements are portrayed to life scale and true to the particular historical moment and place of origin. Therefore, research is an important foundation for the completion of the script, stage design, and music, giving life to these productions.

Excellence and balance within these disciplines is characterized by passion and hard work, self-discipline, intuition, and by the technical applications of principles and elements of design, which apply to all.

Literature has also been an esteemed source of inspiration for the creation of images: whether it is an academic expression or animation, words have served as catalysts to ignite creativity.

One of the first writers to the fairy-tale genre, Jeanne Marie Le Prince de Beaumont (1711 Rouen, France-1780 Savoy, France), wrote *Beauty and the Beast*, originally named *La Belle et la Bete*. Her work, as the work of many other novelists, such as the Grimm brothers, has served as inspiration for many film and theatre productions.

Walt Disney Productions, a world known enterprise, established by cartoonist Walt Disney, since the first half of the 20th century, has used the talent of many illustrators. Under his leadership, they made hundreds of storyboards to create the animated feature film *Snow White* (1937). Today, Disney is a part of popular culture and is a vivid example of the power of mass media.

In our main galleries, you can appreciate the rendition of animated characters from Walt Disney's feature film of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Students in different electives have portrayed literary characters borrowing images from Disney studios to explore the different art media. The creative process has then gone full circle: from literary influence, to the creation of original animated images, to the inspiration of both, to then create a new interpretation.

These art electives collaborated with the Performance Department (drama and music) to enhance the literary piece used this year for their theatrical production.

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