



TOP: Austin Berry, Amber Slater-Scott, Isaac McNutt, and Amy Ostrem, preform their closing song "Remember the Charleston" at West High on November 6th.  
KIERRA ZAPF/ THELITTLEHAWK

# New director, Berry, leads 4th Avenue Jazz Company forward

By Jacob Buatti  
jacobbuatti@thelittlehawk.com

City High's varsity show choir is going through a lot of changes. A new show, a new name, a new director, and a completely new way of doing things.

After the retirement of Dr. Greg Grove last year, the show choir's members knew there were going to be changes this year. Now, with the new director chosen Jim Berry and his wife, Ann Berry, have decided to make these changes.

Firstly, everything was planned to the students' other activities, minimizing the number of overlapping competitions or meets. Competitions are picked by the number of groups attending or even the size of the competition. Now, each competition is chosen to work with the schedules of the students. This means that students can be more in-

involved with speech, jazz band and other extracurricular activities.

"When choosing competitions to go to, we had to look at the calendar to find which days didn't conflict with jazz band or speech," Berry said. "I think we've done a really good job at avoiding a lot of conflicts."

Secondly, the name, 4th Avenue Jazz Company has been shortened to 4th Avenue, or 4th Ave. Now, when the group is announced at competitions, their name is going to be much shorter.

"The name change doesn't really mean a lot," Gretchen Burke 14' said. "Our name may have changed for competitions, but to the choir kids and the people who know us, we'll always be 4th Avenue Jazz Company."

The largest change is the structure. In the past, show choir practices and agendas have been very

loose. Now, each practice is scheduled, dividing the practice time into different segments.

"I hope we can work on each piece as much as we need to," Berry said. "I hope this will help our group improve as a whole."

The new songs will include a rendition of Round About and Everybody's Everything, The choreographer's original, Strange Attractions, the Rodgers & Hammerstein Ballad, Shine On Your Shoes, and another original written by the choreographer, Remember the Charleston.

The show choir will perform in 7 different shows and competitions throughout the year. The members hope to win many awards and improve from last years show.

"I can't wait to start competing," Madison Davenport, 15' said. "Our show is going to be awesome once we've got the moves down."



SINGING WITH SOUL: Elena Foster Grabs the audience's attention during her solo in "Remember the Charleston."  
KIERRA ZAPF/ THELITTLEHAWK



## LH Film Review: GRAVITY

By Claire Noack  
clairenoack@thelittlehawk.com

There's a lot of hype surrounding Oscar-winning director Alfonso Cuarón's movie "Gravity." Hype that in my opinion, isn't all that well deserved.

I walked into the theater with my popcorn in hand, ready to be amazed. I had seen the previews, and with two A-list actors like Sandra Bullock and George Clooney I wondered how I couldn't absolutely love the movie.

The plot of the movie is simple. Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) and Matthew Kowalsky, (George Clooney) are on a mission in space, when everything goes wrong. (I know, super surprising, right?) A collision between some Russian satellites causes a massive chain reaction, leaving a cloud of debris orbiting the Earth at breakneck speed. The rest of the movie is the two of them trying to survive and get back down to Earth. (I never would have guessed.)

In the beginning, it was great. Watching people floating around with the knockout background of the Earth seen from space was wonderful. The view is one thing that I absolutely loved. I don't think I could get tired of the shot where the sun is just starting to peek around the edge of the world.

The ways in which the movie was filmed were excellent. With the constantly changing angles and point of view, it really looked and felt like you were in space. It was almost disorienting, the way I never knew what was actually up or down, which I'll assume was exactly the point. The director actually had to invent the technology before the movie could be filmed. A groundbreaking system of LED panels, computer-controlled cameras, and complicated wirework was developed to realistically portray a zero-gravity environment.

In addition, during the initial colliding, exploding, everything goes to hell scene, all sound was cut. I thought that it was a really good move by Cuarón, and really drew me in.

However, as "Gravity" progressed, this cool technique was quickly given up on. Towards the end, even small bumps were given loud sounds. And that's not my only problem with the movie.

There are the basic flaws in the movie's science, which astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson took to twitter to point out. Some of the mess-ups include the direction the debris is orbiting, as well as how space stations with several hundred miles of distance in between them are within sight lines of each other.

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