

Grants High School Band

PO Box 8, Grants, NM 87020

Striving for Excellence!

Press Release
February 7, 2018

Grants High School presents a tale as old as time, [Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*](#). It plays at 7:00 pm on March 2nd and 3rd at the Grants High School Auditorium.

Tickets are available at Grants High School, Parkhurst Pharmacy, and Delta Tire Pros. All seats are \$10.

Be swept away into this enchanted musical where Belle feels trapped in a provincial town and a prince is trapped in the body of a hideous beast. If the beast can learn to love and be loved, the spell will be broken, and he will be transformed to his former princely self. If not, he and his household will be doomed for all time. This classical musical love story is a magical tale that comes to life with unforgettable characters, astonishing sets and costumes, and a stunning score including, "Be Our Guest," "Gaston," "Human Again," and the Tony-winning title song, "Beauty and the Beast."

Director Anissa Shaver said, "I have always been a fan of Disney, fairy tales, and 'happily-ever-after's'. *Beauty and the Beast* falls into all three of those categories. I think many of us can relate to Belle's dream of 'adventure in the great wide somewhere' or to Beast's regrets of mistakes made long ago. It is a story of love, hope, and redemption. It reminds us that we can change if we truly put our heart and soul into it." Chef Patricia Downing, the costume designer commented: "*Beauty and the Beast* reminds me that there is good in everyone if you look deep enough. It encourages us to never give up on someone we care about."

Beauty and the Beast cast includes Mikayla Garcia as Belle, along with Karlten Friedrich as Beast, Andrew Chavez as Maurice, Ben Stokowski as Cogsworth, Danielle Yazzie as Lumiere, Alyssa Serna as Msr. D'Arque, Jocelyn Ortiz-Serna as Mrs. Potts, Paulette Shaver as Babette, and Sofia Miranda as the Wardrobe. The cast also include more than 20 other GCCS students, staff, and community members.

The creative team, under the direction of William Griner, includes GHS Drama Instructor Anissa Shaver, GHS Choir Director Richard McNeill, GCCS Elementary Music Director Johanna Friedrich, GHS Pro-Start Instructor Chef Patricia Downing, and NMSU-Grants Choir Director Rachel Stokowski. The production is also being supported behind the scenes by students from the GHS Music and Theater Technology Class, the GHS FCCLA program, the GHS Drama classes and the parents of the performers and staff.

The Disney animated feature film from which the play is based premiered in 1991 and won the Academy Award for Best Song and Best Original Score and made history for being the first animated feature to be nominated for Best Picture. The Broadway production opened in 1994 and ran for 13 years and 5,461 performances, closing in 2007 to make way for a production of *The Little Mermaid*. PCPA alumnus Jeff McCarthy played the Beast on Broadway from 1995 - 1997 and again in 2004. The Broadway production expanded upon the animated version with seven new songs. The new numbers with the help of Tim Rice were intended to bring out the sensitive side of the Beast and to underscore Belle's courage. The play was nominated for nine Tony Awards. In London, the play won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical. It has been performed in more than 30 countries reaching over 35 million theatergoers.

(Source: Pacific Conservatory Theater, <http://www.pcpa.org/beautyandthebeastpr.html>).