

Theater Class Prospers Due to Student's Talent/

Gavin Lane (10) has experienced the full process of performing a play countless times. With his stage makeup painted on his face, Lane ponders the hours he has spent memorizing his lines as the curtain opens, and a single spotlight shines upon the stage. No longer himself for the duration of the play, he becomes the character that he is portrayed to be.

"I like acting because I really like getting in front of people and putting on a performance and playing characters that everyone knows really well and grew up watching," said Lane. Lane, who has been acting for a majority of his life, portrayed the cynical panther Bagheera in the fall production of *The Jungle Book* and the loyal cowboy Woody in the spring production of *Toy Story*.

His talent and love for theater have even taken him to a performing arts high school in Las Vegas, Nevada, for his freshman year. There, he learned more about other facets of theater. According to Lane, "In Las

Vegas, I didn't really do any acting parts, but I got to have a lot of places in the tech crew, like I was the stage manager for *The Wizard of Oz*, and I did spotlights for *Godspell*. I got to learn a lot more about the tech side than the acting side. I think that really matters when you're acting that you understand both sides of it."

Lane's experience in Las Vegas played a key role in his performances as Bagheera and Woody. However, despite attending this performing arts school, portraying these characters was still not easy. "The hardest part about the role of Woody was doing the voice because when I act, I like to portray the characters as they originally were, so doing the Tom Hanks voice was a lot harder than I thought, but I still think I did a pretty good job," said Lane.

With students such as Lane who are passionate about acting, it will be interesting to see how advanced future TCPS productions will be.

| by Courtney Cochran



Richard McDurey (8)

1. As Hamm, portrayed by Allison Hanby (11), and Rex, portrayed by Trinity Locke (11), panic about Andy's birthday party, Woody, portrayed by Gavin Lane (10), tries to reassure them, while only Slinky Dog, portrayed by Hacıdon Anthony (10), remains calm. // *Katie Hammock photo* **2.** Andy, portrayed by Causey Simmons (10), plays with his toys before his birthday party. // *Katie Hammock photo* **3.** Buzz, portrayed by Reid Tate (10), Woody, and Sid's toys, portrayed by Thomas Taylor (10), Regan Steen (10), and Mary VanderSteege (9), scare Sid, portrayed by Kellen Harrison (12), revealing their distaste for his abuse. // *Zach Kalish photo* **4.** Woody gives the announcements to the toys, who include Slinky Dog, Rex, Bo Peep, portrayed by Courtney Cochran (11), Hamm, Potato Head, portrayed by Erin Harrison (10), and the barrel monkeys, portrayed by Wesley Sumner (10) and Madeline Bonds (11). // *Katie Hammock photo*

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- Gavin Lane (10)