

Special Gifts Theatre's Musical Theatre Libertyville Celebrates 5th Year Anniversary

BY ELISE STEFFE | PHOTOS BY KEVIN GRIFFIN

Special Gifts Theatre's (SGT) Musical Theatre Libertyville celebrated their 5th season with Frozen in February! The cast of 37 actors and peer mentors included 10 new participants. Supportive family and friends, including students and teachers from D70, totaling 650 audience members came out to see the big performances. SGT provides educational, therapeutic inclusive theatre arts programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The spotlight is always on what the student can achieve with individualized goals. SGT's recipe for success is high expectations + individualized support = achievement!



forward to being part of The SGT Family for years to come.”

All student actors demonstrate growth in identified areas and peer mentors benefit too. Graduating seniors from LHS, Anna Koberstein and Abbey Levandowski were recognized. Peer mentors often choose to pursue majors in special education, speech, and occupational therapy.

Tina Getsy, SGT student parent and Libertyville resident shared: “Our daughter, Nora, was welcomed into SGT with open arms after our family’s recent move to Libertyville. Being part of SGT has given Nora a sense of pride and increased confidence. Watching the performance of Frozen and seeing each and every child shine was an amazing experience. We are grateful to the staff, peers and mentors who have had a positive impact on Nora. The special bond formed between the children and their mentors is heartwarming. We are so fortunate to have SGT in our community providing a safe place for our children to learn and grow their love of music, dancing and performing. We look



“I moved to Illinois during the pandemic and became a SGT peer mentor last year. Never had I been in an environment that was so positive, inclusive and welcoming. From day one, my life was changed. SGT has taught me that a leader is someone who is able to adapt to different situations and help lead a group through challenges.” -

Abbey Levandowski, Peer Mentor and LHS Senior

Next season, SGT will perform The Lion King in Libertyville. Enrollment is open now with programming beginning in the fall for student actors and peer mentors. Our Creativity in Motion and Creating Outside the Lines programs will run this summer in Barrington, Glenview, and Winnetka. For more information and to register visit www.specialgiftstheatre.org. Contact SGT at info@specialgiftstheatre.org or call 847-564-7704 more information.



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