

Newspaper Story

About 50 students performed in *Legally Blonde The Musical* at Somers High School on Friday night.

Somers High School students audition to perform a musical every March. Rehearsals for the musical began in January for two hours Thursday through Friday. Senior Jessie Shaw who played the lead, Elle Woods, in *Legally Blonde* described the rehearsals as craziness and fun.

“This is a really hard show musically,” Shaw said. “We didn’t realize going into it. It’s a lot of weird key changes and tempo changes. It took a lot of cast cooperation. We really pulled through. In the rehearsals, we all became so close, just because it was such a challenge.”

Shaw began performing when she was 7-years-old. She performed in many roles but said this role might be her favorite. Junior Daniel Kushner who played the male lead, Emmett Forest, in *Legally Blonde* began performing when he was 11-years-old. Both Shaw and Kushner agreed that the audience is the best part about performing.

“I just love people watching me and enjoying the things that I’ve worked hard to make,” Kushner said. “It’s amazing that people get to enjoy the things that I produce.”

Despite their love for performing, it does have its challenges. Shaw described the multi-tasking that’s required for actors and actresses in musicals, because they sing, dance, and act at the same time. Kushner agreed that the worst part about performing is the stress that comes with it.

“I was freaking out about hitting a certain note for two and a half hours,” Kushner said. “I did it, and it was great. It’s just that the time before it was nerve-wracking.”

Legally Blonde follows a young blonde woman, Elle Woods, as she applies to Harvard Law School in pursuit of her ex-boyfriend. Elle learns about law and discovers who she really wants to be. The plot focuses on Elle's transition from sorority life to her Harvard life with comedic moments along the way. She meets Emmett Forest who helps her succeed at Harvard and eventually falls in love with him.

The Somers High School's version of the show featured two live dogs, the high school's actual principal, and a live orchestra. About 200 people attended the Friday performance at 7:30 p.m. The cast also performed Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

However, the cast hoped to do more than just entertain the audience during those performances. Kushner hoped the audience would get the message to find what they love to do. Shaw hoped the audience would learn from Elle's self-discovery at the end.

"Always be true to yourself," Shaw said. "There's a great line at the end, 'being true to yourself never goes out of style.' There's never a wrong time to be you. That's something I will definitely take away from Elle. I learned that being you is what gets you wherever you are in life. What makes the experiences you have and the people you meet is how much you believe in yourself."

Shaw said that she will definitely pursue theatre as an extracurricular in college. She is unsure what college she will attend and what she will study after graduation in June. Kushner said he will definitely audition for his senior year.