



the comm-unity newsletter

“9 to 5: After Hours”

A Collaboration Between the Players and MCTV

by John O’Connor

Every spring, the Manhattan College Players put on their spring musical. This semester, the college’s award-winning theatre troupe on campus brought the hit musical, *9 to 5*, to the stage of Squeri Hall in late April.

In effort to publicize the highly anticipated event, the Manhattan College Players partnered with Manhattan College TV to create a “late night show,” which highlights members of the cast, crew, and creative team behind the production of *9 to 5*. The idea behind this production came from Billy Walker, sophomore communication major and Marketing Chair of the MC Players’ board.

“Through this collaboration, I am hoping to push this event to prospective students, family members of the cast, and the Manhattan College community,” Walker said.

“This is a really cool way to show people the behind the scenes of what goes on in a Players’ production and

will, hopefully, leave people wanting more.”

Walker is proud of the work he has created is excited for everyone to see all the episodes.

In the first episode, the three “leading ladies” are featured and given the chance to discuss their role in the production. Freshman communication major Olivia Bailey said, before the episodes aired, that she was thrilled at the new efforts to promote the upcoming show and to reach new audiences through an online presence.

“It was a more than enjoyable experience and I know that it has made members of Players more excited for future collaborations,” shared Bailey.

Bailey also described how this collaboration is beneficial to both groups participating in the production of *9 to 5: After Hours*.

“I recently declared my communication double major, so it was a look into what I will be doing in the future and

the kinds of clubs that are involved with the major,” Bailey shared. “Students from both ends are working and gaining experience on set and with [video production].”

As Walker mentioned, the production was promoted heavily to prospective students and was performed during Accepted Students Day, so they were invited along with their families.

The cast of *9 to 5* are active members of the Manhattan College community. Beyond her role as Roz in the production, freshman communication major Brooke Dellarocco is also a tour guide in the Admissions office on campus.

“By displaying *9 to 5* on Accepted Students Day, it’s inspiring to incoming students to see the hard work and talent that MC has to offer,” Dellarocco said. This level of outreach is something new for Players.

“This collaboration is definitely going to help reach a level of promotion we have never had before,” assistant choreographer and senior Richard Divirgilio said. “This is the first large scale production Players has put on in Smith Auditorium, now Squeri Hall, since the pandemic. So it is the perfect time to bring in as many audience members as possible.”

“This collaboration is definitely going to help reach a level of promotion we have never had before,” assistant choreographer and senior Richard Divirgilio said.

Divirgilio has been an active member of Players since his freshman year in 2019. Although Divirgilio is not a member of the cast for this production, he serves in demanding role as assistant choreographer.

“I am excited to be a part of *9 to 5: After Hours* because I will have the opportunity to talk about how this experience is different from what I have done in the past,” added Divirgilio. “We have a new choreographer, Mark, who is amazing, and I have also been working in tandem with dance captain, John O’Connor, to ensure the cast is ready to go for showtime!”

9 to 5: After Hours has released one episode so far and the team intends to release two to three more episodes leading up to the production. The episodes will consist of crew members, cast members and more!

Both groups have put in immense time and effort on this series, spending extra time outside of class, rehearsals, work and more to make this a professional production.

Host Billy Walker, alongside members of MCTV, have spent hours working through logistics, scheduling and production, which speaks to all the work they have been taught through their classes and professional work during their time at Manhattan College.

9 to 5 the musical hit the stage toward the end of April. For more information on the production, *9 to 5: After Hours* and all things Players and MCTV, make sure to tune into their socials @playersmc and @manhattancollege.tv. ★