

JUGHEADS

J O U R N A L

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • Summer 2018

JUGGLE JAM 20: One for the Ages!

A special year of retro routines, tributes & grads

“This hobby, passion, sport and art / Plays for these childhoods at least a part, And we get to love them from the heart. / That’s why this show was born.”

—The last stanza, Verse 4 from JJ20’s “The Juggle Jam High”

From the earliest brainstorming more than a year ago to our fall SLT Retreat confirming our club themes to a choreography process that began in December to incorporating three dozen grads, *Juggle Jam 20* (JJ20) is one for the ages and our record books.

Never before have we simultaneously paid such extensive tribute to our history while inviting back en masse living representatives of that history to celebrate a special milestone in our company’s continuance through our peak public performance.



Nine of the 18 grads in various JJ Opener costumes perform with Paul Arneberg in “The Juggle Jam High” (photo: Cheryl De Haan).

4th year Dance Specialist **Betsy Nelson** led us to greatly step it up (pun intended) in “**Rock This Town,**” and this Director took pleasure in taking advantage of a smaller company by weaving in 35-36 grads each night in “**Reach,**” including featuring 11 past Rudys in the ball section, 10 past Elites in the ring section, 27 past Ultimates in the club section, and all grads forming a perimeter of support for our grand finale. **Wendy Arneberg’s** video montage to accompany “**The Juggle Jam High**” was a wonderful glimpse into our past, with her **Slide Show** a more specific tribute to our present 90 Jugheads and our shared adventures of events & awards representing the current school year.

Our five weekly clubs combined for seven group routines, including members of Advanced doubling-up for “**Bollywood**” (our tribute to Monday Rec.) and Ultimates joined by more than a dozen grads (led by **Coach Tom Gaasedelen, ‘13**) for our **Ultimate Club Tribute**. All four after school clubs featured start-to-end “Best of” themes: the eclectic themes of **Advanced**; Thursday Rec.’s multi-faceted “**Storybook**”; Elite’s eight very different “**Entertainment Styles**”; the musicals of **Friday**

Rec., including an inspirational combined finale with Advanced, “**Defying Gravity**”; and Ultimate Club’s “**Celebration!**” with excellent juggling and stage presence which aptly reflected the team’s friendships and chemistry off the stage.

Specialty Acts were the most “original” aspect of the show, but still with echoes of past routines: the debut of a technical duet, **Wild**; the repeat duet, **It’s Greek to Me**; three-time soloist, **Leave No Tres**; the brother-like duo, **The LemonHeads**; the rare girls’ quintet, **Trapezoid**; and the boys taking on the mantle of a talented trio, **The Slips**.

Skits were listed in our expanded program to connect with our vaudevillian heritage, all paying tribute to past JJ elements while drawing from sources as diverse as sketch comedy TV, epic movies, school talent contests, and a few of our own grad-legends emceeding for UC, the Slide Show, and “Reach.”

Finally, Godspeed to our nine new grads **Linus, Clay, Peter, Miranda, Joshua, Skip, Luca & Laura!** Averaging 7.38 years each, they’ve contributed much to our company’s history.

PAUL’S NOTE: *For JJ20, I asserted an unusual amount of “say” as to which past JJ routines/skits we incorporated. Therefore, I nostalgically think of this show as “Mr. Arneberg’s Opus.” But that’s only because I’ve been here from the beginning. I acknowledge and thank the vast team of staff, student leaders, parents, members, and grads who all contributed talents & time to this special year. The fact that you families and seniors gave us a Notre Dame “Rudy” letter jacket, football, and gift is an amazing bonus! We’ll use your gift to celebrate 25 years of marriage in Middle Earth over Christmas!*

WENDY’S NOTE: *Thank you, JH families, members and grads for the many ways you showed your appreciation, love and support to us over the climactic JJ20 weekend. The special presentation on stage (with the song led by Peter Holmquist inspired by “The Office”), gifts, flowers, and heartfelt personal notes and cards filled our hearts. We are truly grateful for your encouragement and love.*

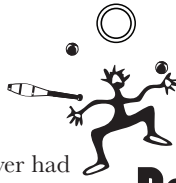
Officer Voice by Peter H.

“The true meaning of JUGHEADS”

As I move on from JH as a graduating senior, it is really strange to think that next year I won’t be here. I have had the wonderful opportunity to call this my home for the past eight years of my life. Knowing that this was the end for me, my goal was to make this the beginning for another student. So as I threw my last throw and gave my final bow, I was able to see the path behind me and know what JH has done for me, along with seeing the bright futures ahead for those standing around me.

I have called JH my home for eight years—not just because some weeks I have spent more time there than at my actual house—but because of the family feel it brings to the table, a feeling I try to let every member and visitor share. This fam-





ily feel may be the most extraordinary experience I have ever had because I can't name a place where high school seniors want to teach skills to 2nd graders all because one man had a vision to start a small juggling company.

I will leave you with advice for the future. 1) Smile, because a smile is contagious, and when one person smiles it could change someone's day. 2) If you want to make friends, be the friend you want, and that will bring in the right people to you. 3) Never be normal, stand out from the crowd, be the real you, don't let what others say affect you.

It has been an honor. My only regret is not joining earlier.

God Bless.

—**Peter H.:** 8th Year Jughead, Officer, Thursday Rec. Assistant, Friday Rec. Volunteer, Elite & Advanced Member, High School Senior

Coming Attractions: 2018-2019!

- **1st Semester Registration:** The enclosed form details online sign-up for next school year's 1st Semester. All clubs fill first-come, first-served starting Friday, June 1; the early-bird discount for next school year's 1st Semester expires Saturday, June 30.
NOTE: As a kindness to the SLT & staff, please encourage your kids to depart gracefully if not returning. We appreciate the closure. Thanks!
—PA
- **Paperless Communication:** To streamline clerical duties, this is our last news/reg. hardcopy/mailling. Digitizing three reg. forms and nine newsletters (+ four mailings) will save time and expense. News & reg. forms will be posted online ~the 5th of each month.
- **14th Winter Showcase: Sat., March 9, 2019** at Hopkins HS.
- **Juggle Jam 21 dates set!** Friday & Saturday, May 17 & 18, 2019 at Hopkins HS; Dress Rehearsals will take place on Wed., 5/8/19 (cast photo) **and Mon., 5/13/19** (full run of the show).

Bulletins

- **SUMMER CAMP FORMS** are available in our St. Stephen's office and online for five (5) weeks of juggling camps June 11-July 13. Same-day registration is fine, but pre-reg is preferred.
- **EDINA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE:** Wed., 7/4. Sign up on our website.
(Note: We're no longer in the SLP parade.)
- **IJA TEAM SEND-OFF/POT-LUCK:** 7/11 (email to come).

Paul's Platform:

Reflecting on 20 JJs: A Six-Part Series

This column series celebrates our double-deca *Juggle Jam* milestone. This final entry looks to the future in light of declining numbers.

Part 6: "The Future—To JJ21 and Beyond!"

If JJ20 were our last, I'd retire from JH happy and joy-filled. That statement simultaneously lauds JJ20's resounding success and is transparent to an unmistakable six-year enrollment decline to which I alluded in my Director's Note (Part 5 in this series). Two offered explanations for our downtrend include: 1) We have less visibility due to our geographical displacement even farther from Edina Public Schools (as of JJ18, '15-'16); 2) If only we marketed JH better, our rosters would resurge.

But full resurgence to a company of 140 isn't our goal. We mirror the numbers of JJs 3 & 4, but each member is likely to know many kids from other clubs. And one fringe benefit for JJ20 was that we were actually able to fit 35+ grads on stage for "Reach," celebrating both our history and their endorsement of our 90 current Jugheads to maximally endure in this niche of juggling, friendships, performing, and development.

I acknowledge that some opine that I use too much "God talk" related to JJ (and perhaps JH in general), but I do hope that my words at least make it clear that this is a faith endeavor and not some clever plan to make a unique living. Wendy & I believe that we'll be sustained even with a further downturn, and we do hope we can pass the mantle if ever we were to pull back to the point of not leading daily clubs or annual *Juggle Jams*. In my own mind, it does make some sense to "get out" to pursue a living with a more stable future (esp. with our downtrend), but my *mind* is not my *Lord*, and I serve One who provides, sustains, and gives purpose beyond measure. (One tool of provision, via various grants: the EYJA. Thank you!!)

Ultimately, if our last JJ takes the stage 1-20 years from now, I'll be content for the years we've experienced together. Meanwhile, I've already written my JJ21 Opener, scheduled our SLT Retreat, and plan to eagerly encourage summer campers to join. I trust that the same God who gave me a specific, personal calling to youth work (and therefore JH, and JJs 1-20) will graciously sustain Wendy & me as long as we have breath and a will to defy gravity—reaching for the stars, with our feet planted firmly on the Solid Rock.

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