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### ACT III - - a division of Encore Stage & Studio Disney’s “High School Musical”

Thanks to the gentle prodding by the parents of one of the actresses (Eileen Sugameli), I got to see **Disney’s “High School Musical,”** at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre. It’s put on by *Act III* which is a division of *Encore Stage & Studio* which features students 15 years old and up---with some adults. With a large, enthusiastic---and quite talented, cast of singers and actors, **“High School Musical”** is about being yourself and not being pigeonholed because of peer pressure. In this story, a star basketball player, Troy (Jimmy Mavrikes) also wants to sing in a school musical with Gabriella (Ella Chapin). But the team and his coach and father (James Senavitis) want him to concentrate on the upcoming championship game. Gabriella experiences the same from her girlfriends. And Ms. Darbus (Aimee Meher-Homji), who is conducting auditions for the show, isn’t cutting anyone any slack. In addition, another talented, but pushy student, Sharpay (Megan MacFarland) is trying to get Gabriella’s part. Her friend Ryan (Matthew Heap) is a positive influence. There’s a happy ending and a lot of fun in this two hour and fifteen minute never dragging show. See it! By the way, 15 year old Eileen Sugameli has an ensemble role in this show, but has performed in a dozen other *Act III/Encore* productions. **Disney’s “High School Musical”** closes at TJ on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Call Encore at 703-548-1154 or check the website at [www.encorestage.org](http://www.encorestage.org).

