

BY GIA RECCO '10

A Walk-On Part Into Emma's History

It was Wednesday night, our first dress rehearsal for *Revels*, and it seemed as if we were either on the brink of a brilliant success or a massive failure. It was hard to tell which. With heads held high, we paraded proudly into Kiggins. Although the dragon's wing got stuck in the doorway, we surmounted that technical difficulty and others, and we began to see the benefits of all our hard work.

Producing *Revels* is a monster of a feat. Songs that seemed so familiar to us turned out to be complicated by nuances we had never noticed before. Lines, which in the past had been so effortlessly articulated by various characters, we now realized were riddled with intricate “thee’s” and “thou’s,” along with the occasional “hark!” This was clearly not the *Revels* we had experienced in the past—we were no longer the audience, waiting in anticipation to see the seniors perform. We were *Revels* now, whether we were ready to take on the challenge or not.

Throughout the week, the Class of 2010 experienced a multitude of emotions ranging from frustration as we attempted to learn lines and songs, to elation as we gleefully asked teachers

and students to “revelize” us. We dealt with sore muscles and skinned knees, results of intense dance practice and fight sequences. Amidst the numerous rehearsals, we were all learning how to apply stage

makeup and fake beards properly, and bearded teenage girls milling around the basement of Slocum became a commonplace and comical sight.

The next three performances also had their share of slip-ups, the most memorable being several girls frantically attempting to keep their mustaches and beards stuck in place while dancing the Branles, while those watching stifled peals of laughter. In addition the dragon, as it made its grand entrance, often got stuck in the doorway to Kiggins, a sight that drew laughter from the crowd. Whatever the mishap, the highlights of the play served as ample compensation. We shared the audience’s delight as we watched the jesters perform acrobatics and leap about, as a Harry Potter-themed alchemist attempted to charm copper into gold, and as a haughty St. George fought the Turkish Knight and dragon with sword in hand.

Revels in its simplest form seems to be a high school play and just one of the many traditions that Emma celebrates. Why then, is it so important to every person who participates in it? Perhaps it is because *Revels* offers the senior class a chance to celebrate the time they have spent at Emma. Maybe because it provides a common experience that bonds generations of women who have attended Emma. Though it is nearly impossible to answer this question, it is safe to say that *Revels* is a living, breathing entity—a spirited being that will forever remain within Ye Grey Walls. **e**



