

To All the Gifties,

Hello and happy summer!

I can't wait for this summer and all the new opportunities before us. We will be having a new musical director with us this summer and I am genuinely so excited for you all to meet him. I personally got to know him during a run of *The Diary of Anne Frank* with Lake Charles Little Theatre back in 2011, but he's been a friend of my family for a very long time. We wanted you all to have a chance to hear from him before the program resumes as well as to be able to pitch the choice for this summer's performance to get you all excited to come back and audition!

It's gonna be great! Now let me pass the proverbial mic,

Danny

Hello,

Let me introduce myself; I'm Greg Stratton, this summer's director of the musical for GPGC. I am a longtime friend of Elayne Gabbert and have worked with her for years helping with the school musicals she'd direct during the year. I have personally directed and taught theatre in New Orleans at Tulane, Xavier, University of New Orleans, Nunez Delgado, and Dillard at the college level. I also taught theatre and directed musicals at Mount Carmel Academy for 5 years. Locally, I have directed and performed in shows here in town at both McNeese and Lake Charles Little Theatre since the 80's and professionally, I have worked as an actor with the Patchwork Players in New Orleans for 26 years.

I am very excited and so look forward to meeting and working with all of you and putting on a great show this summer,

Mr. Stratton

Now, for the pitch:

You may know *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations* or *David Copperfield* - now discover the wonders of Charles Dickens' final and forever-incomplete novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. This incomparable musical is presented as a play within a play. Actors in a musical hall present Dickens' final novel, crafting an ending all its own with a fun twist: Edwin Drood is murdered, and this interactive musical asks the audience to decide how it all ends! During the performance, the audience will be prompted to vote for their preferred ending; meaning the ending of the show could be *totally different* for every night's production. Take part in a beloved and remarkable opportunity to perform in this unique story by one of the most renowned writers of all time. A great part and great songs await you in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

See you soon!

The Thespians