

DALE FOOR CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREE

Cindi Macioce

Cindi Macioce has been an educator for over 40 years, including the last 28 years directing the Gahanna Lincoln High School theatre department, where she started in 1995 and retired last year. She was the beloved theatre teacher and director who shaped the GLHS theatre department into an award winning, highly-respected and cherished part of the GJPS community.

Macioce not only taught the craft of performance theatre, but also the value of building community through the arts. In 1998, Macioce expanded the Children's Touring Theatre Troupe at GLHS and this work continues today. Junior and senior students create, produce and perform original pieces for young audiences at all seven Gahanna-Jefferson elementary schools, often a first introduction to the experience of live theatre.



While the GLHS Theatre Department has earned numerous awards and honors over the decades, one of the highlights for Macioce was having the GLHS Theatre program selected to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2005, 2013 and 2018. Being a three-time American High School Theatre Festival Award winner provided GJPS students an incredible opportunity to attend and perform on a global stage.

Macioce not only pushed and challenged her students, she also developed close relationships that continue well beyond graduation, which has been her favorite part of teaching. Many of her former students have gone on to work on stage and backstage on Broadway, movies and become educators themselves.

"Thank you for your tutelage, your friendship, your inspiration and your love," said Trenton Weaver, Class of 2007 and Gahanna City Councilman in a video tribute. "You poured all those things not

only onto your students, but on their parents and their families and bonded all of us together into a family."

The GLHS theatre department has performed numerous memorable musicals and plays such as: "To Kill a Mockingbird", "Les Miserables", "Hairspray", "Newsies", etc. Macioce says she is so grateful that the Gahanna community at large is so supportive of what we do and the arts are so strong in Gahanna. Macioce was also not afraid to work with students to address difficult subject matter through the lens of theatre performance. Productions such as "When No Means No" and "26 Pebbles" provided a forum to talk about feelings and thoughts on a wide spectrum of concerns.

Macioce, a graduate of Otterbein College and Bowling Green State University, credits her Otterbein professor, Fred "Pop" Thayer, for sparking her interest and encouraging her to become a teacher. She is slowly adjusting to retirement - spending time with family, reading and making plans for her next chapter.

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