

Connor Fallon

Warren Friedman

I was informed that the local community theater had a new director and that he was directing “Annie”. At first, I was a little skeptical, but overall very excited to meet them. The time came for auditions and I walked in and the first person I saw was this man with a baseball hat on. I was a little confused to if he were the director or not. Then when he called us all in to audition, I knew it was him. He was so friendly, and really made everyone feel comfortable and welcomed. That was the first time I met Warren. I sang my song and usually I get really uneasy after I sing an audition because the directors usually talk right then and there, and make it obvious that it’s about you. Not Warren though, after each person sang, Warren said “great job!” with a huge smile! It didn’t matter how shy, quiet, or off pitch you were, he made you feel like a star.

Working with Warren was one of the greatest experiences ever. He went right to work. He encouraged everyone to do their best. Encouraged being the emphasized word. He never yelled at us unless we were goofing around. And even with that “yelling” he never raised his voice, he talked to us about how we need to come together and act as one cast. He never treated us like kids, but like actors. The whole cast felt so mature and in control of our own character and ultimately our show. He always came to rehearsals with such great optimism, and knew exactly what he wanted to get done. He got all of it done without screaming, yelling, or making kids cry! Plus, he lets you have fun at rehearsals, and explore with character choices that, in the end, makes for a great show!

Warren has that really cool quality of being a director as well as being your friend. I have gotten so close with him. I still talk to him about shows I’m in, auditions that are coming up. He gives me the best advice, and gives me suggestions of what songs to sing, and who to try out for. He really is such a great guy! It’s rare to find a director like Warren. As cheesy as it sounds, no other saying can express what he does. “Find you light inside yourself. Once found, you can only shine like the stars”. That’s exactly what he does. He helps you find your own shining light, whether you’re the lead front and center, or the rock second from stage right. Everyone in his shows feels their importance and it really is thanks to Warren. He is such a great director, friend, role model, and overall great guy!