



Our Mission: Empower people with disabilities and their families through creative expression and sensory exploration.

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CAST SPOTLIGHT: MEREDITH ARCHER AND ELLIE DEVITO

April 13, 2021 by Brigid O'Leary

FREDERICKSBURG, VA—The cast and crew who are putting the finishing touches on “A Special Covid-19,” a musical based on the pandemic of 2020, reflecting the challenges of our current times as lived by someone with a disability. It’s a two-act musical completely written, directed, and performed by a cast and crew of people with disabilities. In today’s Spotlight, we’ll meet Ellie Devito and Meredith Archer.



Ellie Devito

Sixteen-year-old Devito is a well-respected member of the chorus, helping represent a community often overlooked in the pandemic. In addition to dancing in all the big musical scenes, she is a member of the “angel chorus” in the first act. She’s taken to her parts in the show with gusto.

“I like dancing,” Devito said when asked what she liked best about STEP VA and being part of the musical.



Meredith Archer

Archer, 15, lends her voice to Jenny, one of the main character’s friends to whom the audience is introduced via a “Zoom meeting.” Jenny is scripted as a dancer, a fitting role for Archer who, when asked what her favorite part of the musical, also said “singing, dancing, and acting.”

Sponsored by STEP VA Inc, a local 501c nonprofit that “empowers people with special needs through artistic expression and sensory exploration,” the musical will hit the stage at Fredericksburg Christian School this Saturday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m., and again on April 18 at 2:30 p.m. Both shows have limited seating due to the ongoing pandemic. All tickets must be purchased in advance, as no tickets will be sold at the door. For those unable to attend in person, a livestream will be available for Saturday’s show. The livestream will be made available to online ticket holders on April 17th.

Tickets for both general admission, in-person seating and the live stream are available online at stepva.org.

For more information, to donate, or to purchase tickets, please, visit www.stepva.org.

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