“ONE MORE TIME!”

BY EM DEMARCO

THE BUDGET WAS $8,” SAYS GWEN MILLER, LAUGHING AS SHE RECALLED HOW HER LATE HUSBAND, FELIX H. “BEBE” MILLER (MD ’55), DESCRIBED THE FIRST SCOPE AND SCALPEL PRODUCTION IN 1955. “BEBE USED TO SAY IT GREW INTO THIS MAMMOTH PRODUCTION. BUT IN THE ORIGINAL SHOW, THE BUDGET WAS $8, FOR PRETZELS.”


THIS YEAR MARKS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PITT MED STUDENTS HAMMING IT UP ON STAGE, WHERE THEY POKED FUN AT THEIR PROFESSORS, THEIR PROFESSION, AND THEMSELVES. OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE HAS SPENT TIME UNDER THE LIGHTS. YET DOZENS OF STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING LINES, LYRICS, AND DANCE MOVES. THESE MOMENTS WILL BECOME SOME OF THEIR LAST SHARED EXPERIENCES BEFORE THE CLASSMATES PART WAYS TO BEGIN THEIR RESIDENCIES.

WITH MATCH DAY OVER, THEY HAVE LESS THAN TWO MONTHS TO PREPARE. THE COUNTDOWN UNTIL SHOWTIME — AND GRADUATION — HAS BEGUN.
TODAY IS THE FIRST READ-THROUGH OF THE SCRIPT FOR THE 2015 PERFORMANCE OF SCOPE AND SCALPEL.

I HAVE THE LAST FIVE PAGES OF SOMEBODY’S SCRIPT. CAN YOU GUYS ALL MAKE SURE THAT YOURS ENDS ON PAGE 120?

120!

I HAVE 123!

119!

This staple is barely holding everything in place.

14 SCENES!

PROPS! COSTUMES!

SINGING! DANCING! INCLUDING A BOLLYWOOD NUMBER!

SARAH COHEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WRITING COMMITTEE, ETC. CURIE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, INTERNAL MEDICINE-PEDIATRICS

TORY STEEN, ORCHESTRA CODIRECTOR, CAST, BRIGHAM & WOMEN’S HOSPITAL/HARVARD UNIVERSITY, ANESTHESIOLOGY

LEO CHEN, CAST INCLUDING A PORTRAYAL OF DEAN ARTHUR S. LEVINE (MATCHED AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY, UROLOGICAL SURGERY)

AS THE FIRST REHEARSAL ENDS, ONE THING IS CERTAIN...

OOH, CHOCOLATES! WHO BROUGHT THOSE?

I DON’T KNOW...

... BUT IT’S THE BIGGEST BOX OF CHOCOLATES I’VE SEEN IN A LONG TIME!

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... THERE WILL BE SNACKS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

THE SCRIPT IS MASSIVE. IN FACT, THE ENTIRE SHOW IS A HUGE UNDERTAKING. AND THE PRESSURE OF HONORING THIS DECADES-LONG TRADITION IS LOOMING...
The first dance rehearsal -- in one of the lecture halls in Scaife, tonight they will be learning the choreography for "Gunner," a parody of Michael Jackson’s "Thriller."

Singing!...and it’s kind of a wreck...

As long as you’re throwing your arms and your body, you’ll look good!

But within the hour...

Which way are we turning? Left or right?

Two?

Wait... Gunner is on four!

Do it on ‘neer’?

The second ‘neer’?

Gunner, one-two! Turn on the two!

Gunner: A student who focuses on earning a high score at the expense of his or her fellow students... Recent usage has come to mean, “Anyone who is studying when you don’t want to be, and thus makes you feel guilty.”

Modern Family Medicine Program 2015
“I’ve never really DANCED... I mean, I’ve DANCED in the CLUB before!”

“At the beginning I thought I was totally HOPELESS, but now, I think I can get it with PRACTICE. I’m excited, because I was one of the HEAD WRITERS, so seeing it come TOGETHER is REALLY COOL.”

REHEARSAL CONTINUES with “FAKE A COUGH,” a rendition of the pop song, “SHAKE IT OFF.”

“If you can STICK around for just a FEW MINUTES, and put them in the LECTURE HALL... STUDENT LOUNGE... BULLETIN BOARDS.”

“I’ll hang POSTERS, if you PROVIDE the RIDE HOME.”

“EVER? ANYTHING in FRONT of PEOPLE is a LITTLE NERVE RACKING!”

“WHAT MAKES ME NERVOUS?... I’m NERVOUS about BEING a DOCTOR in THREE MONTHS. I think I SPEAK for ALL of US when I SAY that.”

“I’ve never really DANCED... I mean, I’ve DANCED in the CLUB before!”

“IT’S past 9 P.M. PRACTICE ENDS, but there’s still work to do TONIGHT...”

“WHY NOT act out their grumblings on stage, with song and dance?”

“DEAN MCELLROY gave the green light to the FIRST scope and scalpel production in 1955, titled PMS IV.”

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Tonight is the first time the cast will be singing with the orchestra, doing a full run-through of the show’s musical numbers ...

The orchestra includes students from all years!

Opening night is about two weeks away.

Keep the talk down. We’re tuning...

Thank you!

Again, we need to play it all together!

We will do it again.

In the world-care scenario... follow the drums, ok?

Tory will catch up!

The tempo?

Ooh, there’s pizza?

Thank you!

Oof, there’s mom!

We’re strap, each artery, vein, and nerve, to terrorize the grading curve!

And though you fight to stay afloat, your vertebrae start to shudder!

For no mere first year can resist, the hunger of the Gunner!!

Tory?

We removed all my guinea pigs’ spleens!

Antani Rao

We almost have a full ensemble.

The orchestra includes students from all years!

It will come together.

I’m trying to cue you, but not cue Jordan.

I’m playing with the video?

I’m trying to cue you. But not cue Jordan.

Do I’ll have a little cue for you and a bigger cue for Jordan.

For weeks, there is a rehearsal nearly every night.

Thank you!

Gunner!!
I'M ONE OF THE UTERI IN THE IUD DANCE, SINCE I'M GOING INTO OB/GYN.

ONE MORE TIME!

Yeah, they have ovaries on their hands! They are passed down from class to class, and they usually use them in the OB/GYN scene.

... it's like a tradition.

The costumes are just one of many moving parts the students are piecing together for the show.

I've been making things mostly at home... much to the chagrin of my housemates, who are probably sick of having our living room taken over with pattern pieces and animal prints.

... it's like a tradition.

BACK AT THE ORCHESTRA RUN-THROUGH...

What it goes to be like when everyone goes their separate ways?

Leo! Can we steal you?

Yeah!

It will be tough, but, high school ended, college ended, some of my friends from back then I still keep in touch with. Some, we've lost touch over time.

But, we start a new journey in life.

It's just nice to be able to see everyone enjoy their time together as we prepare for the show.

And one can't gonna bring MEEEEEE DOWWWWN!

I'm one of the UTERI in the IUD dance, since I'm going into OB/GYN.

ONE MORE TIME!