

victoria's secrets

VICTORIA SCHNEPS

vschneps@queenscourier.com

tweet me @vschneps



A passionate pursuit

When he was 4 years old, **Alexander Baron** would set up chairs in his living room, instantly creating a play and asking the guests to his home if they would like to be in a play or watch it. That passion has grown and the now-17-year-old just produced his first play off-Broadway. I was lucky enough to be in one of the 100 armchair seats in the intimate shoebox fourth-floor theatre last week, but more than 80 people had to be turned away!

By using the power of family, friends and crowdfunding, Alex pulled off a powerful "message" musical, "Vote for Me."

The talented young cast in what he called a "musical debate" was worthy of a professional theatre.

It was a debate between a man and a woman running for president of the United States surrounded by their mates and advisors. What angst, what fun, yet how sad.

The stars of the show, **Danielle Beckmann**, perfectly cast as the governor running for president, and her husband, played by **David Murray**, have both appeared in many productions. I loved **Chris Bischoff** who was acting as a senator whose wife, played by **Kim McClay**, was desperate for him to win so she could be like **Jackie Kennedy**. Chris froze in place, appearing like a statue as the spotlight was on his opponent. I watched closely as he stood unblinking! **Joey Homza**, the advisor to both sides, switching roles with remarkable ease with a change of tie, was a great foil for the candidates. Their comedic skills were well honed by the talented director **Michael Lopez**.

The scene that I can't forget is when the debate moderator, played perfectly by **Lauren Leland**, ran off over 100 countries with a bigger percent of voters than we have and did it to music.

The musical comedy was engaging and I had to pinch myself to believe it was all put together by the handsome talented passionate teenager Alexander Baron.

I may be a little prejudiced because his dad and grandmother are friends for decades, but they have much to be proud of in their son!



Alexander (second from right) thanking his cast and crew



The Baron family: JoAnn, Scott, Sheila, Bruce and wife Julie Baron



Sheila Baron with her grandson



Kim McClay, one of the stars of the musical, and Alex



Alexander with his supportive family, mom JoAnn, father Scott, brothers Spencer (front) and Blake



Jake Stuckelman and Jordyn Boscia join the applause

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