**Supercallifragilisticexpialidocious!**

Gillaspie sounds ‘quite precocious’ as ‘Mary Poppins’

**Editor’s note: The Courier-Tribune’s popular “Trailblazer” feature showcases the positive things young people are doing. If you know someone who fits that description, email name, phone number/email address and a brief description of accomplishments to ajordan@courier-tribune.com.**

By Terrence Jeffries
tjeffries@courier-tribune.com

**TRINITY** — Supercallifragilisticexpialidocious! Olivia Gillaspie, a senior at Trinity High School, has reason to shout out that famous expression from the world’s most famous magical nanny.

The teen will play the lead role in “Mary Poppins,” Trinity’s 50th annual spring musical — and part of a tradition of the state’s longest-running, consecutive high school production to boot.

“To the best of my knowledge, Trinity High School’s annual spring musical is the longest running annual production of a spring musical in the state,” confirmed Michael Johnson, THS theater teacher and director of Dramatics.

“All smiles” — Olivia Gillaspie will play ‘Mary Poppins’ for Trinity High School’s 50th annual spring musical. THS has the longest-running, consecutive high school musical production in the state.
**Trailblazer**

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Each year following without interruption. The first musical was ‘The Sound of Music’ in 1970 produced by Joseph P. Gamble. ‘Mary Poppins’ will be the 50th annual spring musical in keeping with a tradition that includes such titles as ‘Grease,’ ‘Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,’ ‘Guys and Dolls,’ and many, many more.”

Gillaspie, who is the daughter of Melissa and William Gillaspie, admitted she was thrilled when she found out she had landed the part.

“I was at work. I thought it was so awesome, I was so excited,” she said.

No stranger to the stage, she’s been involved in theater since middle school, acting in a number of plays, including “Mid-SummerNight’s Dream,” “Anything Goes,” “Longview,” “Miracle on 34th Street,” “Twelfth Night,” “Shrek,” “Stink Cheese Man” and “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”

Gillaspie said she finds joy and satisfaction in helping piece together and partake in each performance.

“When we put all of that hard work into a show, it’s so beautiful to perform it and show others the art we’ve created as a family,” she said. Acting in plays, she added, is “very enjoyable, a lot of fun.”

Johnson had nothing but praise for his star.

“She is a hard worker who believes in getting things done and responds enthusiastically to the demands of rehearsal, line memorization, dance, voice work, costuming, scenic construction and publicity,” he said. "Olivia is a fantastic student who sees the world in positive and enlightening ways. … She has a happy, can-do attitude about life, often leading her peers through inspiration and example.”

Johnson mentioned how Gillaspie manages a rigorous academic schedule, a part-time job, which she gave up temporarily for the musical, and how she dedicates herself to afterschool theater. Gillaspie said she intends to continue that passion when she heads off to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the fall.

“I’m really excited to be able to get involved in campus ministries and in the theater program (at UNCW) as well,” Gillaspie said. “I think it’ll be a great experience and I’m over the moon to be going to my dream school.”

At UNCW, she plans to study Elementary Education and one day become a teacher.

“I’ve always thought teaching was really cool and a way to make a difference,” she explained. “Whenever I leave this earth, I want to know that I made a difference in the lives of others by being a guiding light towards children and their education and by being the best person I can be towards others.”