

ON STAGE

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Justin Addington is not your typical teen-ager. He recently performed in the play, "On Golden Pond" with Theatre Converse.

Addington has been performing in musicals and dramas since he was 8. During his years of performing he has been in 10 to 15 theatrical productions. He performed in "Cinderella," "50th Reflections," "Mame," "Big River" and "The King and I" with the Spartanburg Little Theatre. He was in "Tommy" with the USCS Shoestring Players and has performed in many church programs as well as made appearances in Spartanburg Youth Theatre productions.

A resident of Cowpens, Addington's first experience with acting took place at church. He was in a number of church plays and enjoyed doing them. He then went on to take drama classes through the Spartanburg Youth Theatre when he was younger. Along with his drama classes he took voice and piano lessons. The voice lessons helped him in the musicals because he also has an excellent voice and loves to sing.

"He's always been exposed to theater," his mother Janice Addington said. According to Janice, Justin's teachers helped him channel his interests while he was younger and until he was old enough to channel them for himself.

The audience's reaction is what he enjoys the most about acting. "I love to make people laugh," he said. "And I hate it when you don't have a good audience," he added.

The hardest part about acting for Addington is keeping a straight face and giving it up when the play is over. "For a lot of people it's the lines, but for me it's keeping a straight face."



Justin Addington, in white hat, is shown during a performance of "The King and I."



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he said with a grin.

According to Addington the hardest role he has portrayed is the role he had in "Tommy." He had to almost become a clone of the older Tommy in the play. He had to learn everything about him so that he could become somewhat of a shadow to him.

When he is learning his lines he just thinks of them as a big conversation. "I let it flow, and I never say my lines the same way twice," he said.

His favorite play is "On Golden Pond." He enjoyed it so much because it was a small cast and he really got to know everybody. It was also the biggest role that he had conquered in a non-musical. "The Kind and I" was his favorite musical in which he portrayed the role of Louie.

According to his mother, the

theater has been a great source of discipline for him. Through his discipline he has taught himself to play the organ. He plays for St. Andrews United Methodist Church every Sunday when he is not involved in something going on at his own church.

When Justin is not acting or playing the organ you might find him participating in another one of his hobbies. Currently he is a freshmen at Broome High School and plays xylophone in the marching band. He also enjoys watching classic television shows, playing the piano, e-mailing friends and talking on the phone. "He can't get dressed in the morning without playing the piano," his mother said with a laugh. "If he walks by it, he sits down and plays," she added.

He has entertained with his singing at a number of community events. They include the Sertoma Club, Kiwanis, Civitan Club and his grandmother's senior citizen's group at church.

Addington doesn't plan to make acting a career. Even though he is a freshmen in high school and his plans could change, he is planning to major in U.S. history and teach.

He attributes his success to his parents and grandmothers. "I owe a lot to both of my grandmas," he said.