



Michael Tacconi

 (class of 2008)

Boston Conservatory, 2008 – present, major: Musical Theater

When asked about his time at Plumstead Christian School, Michael stated that in addition to preparing him to be accepted to one of the premier performing arts colleges in the country, it also allowed him the freedom to indulge his passion for performance. One teacher in particular, Ms. Heidi Wolfskill, took a special interest in Michael and helped him develop his work ethic by teaching him things outside the standard curriculum during his free periods of the day: “Ms. Wolfskill really made the biggest difference. She taught me not only music theory and the art of performance, but she took extra time out of her day to teach me about the progression of art throughout history. This really helped me to understand the direct link between the arts and culture.” Although Michael admits that he didn’t always put smiles on his teachers’ faces, and sometimes struggled with motivation in his classes, he said that his teachers always encouraged him and took the time to help him succeed.

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While his current program of study focuses on creating a well-groomed singer and actor, he is taking advantage of the breadth of educational opportunity in order to make himself the most well-rounded performer that he can be. Michael’s passion for his craft is evident almost immediately but is unable to be denied with one look at his class schedule. Since his freshman year he has been taking 19 credit hours every semester and has performed in at least two shows a semester since his sophomore year. He does admit that he’s slacked off a bit in his senior year, though. He’s only taking 16 credits at the moment.

Besides taking on an academic program that would intimidate even the most studious of us, Michael is turning heads professionally. He was cast in a production of *Next to Normal*, a professional show in Boston that will open in March and play through April. He sees this as a great opportunity: “This is really the first step professionally. It’s going to help me earn credits toward my equity card and will put me in the position to succeed at this after college.” As if that wasn’t enough exposure, Michael will also perform his senior showcase just before he graduates: “There will be a lot of casting agents there, and I’m grateful to my school for giving me such a special opportunity.”

Despite his inordinately busy schedule, Michael also takes time to serve the Lord and witness to those around him. His work with the student group Conservatory Cabaret allows him and his colleagues to share their gifts with the community. They have performed for organizations such as women’s shelters and elder care facilities and Michael sees this as an opportunity to share the word. “I’m the only believer in the group so I think I have a unique perspective. I see it as an opportunity to use my gifts to do more than just entertain.”

While Michael hopes to become a professional stage actor, he would eventually like to relocate to the West Coast to pursue opportunities in film work. We are sure his light will shine as brightly in the California sun as it does in Boston during even the harshest winter.