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**National Dance Institute of New Mexico
Newest Production Pokes Fun at Corporate World**

Play offers audience plenty of laughs

By Ana Maria Trujillo
The New Mexican

Sibling rivalry has no place in the upcoming National Dance Institute of New Mexico's performance *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*. There are four sets of siblings in the show, and not one performer had anything bad to say about their sibling.

Twins Olivia and Noah Caulfield, 11, say it's a good thing that they're actors in the same play.

"It's cool, because if I forget a dance move or something, most likely my sister will remember it," Noah said.

"I can help him with his lines and stuff," Olivia said. "It's pretty cool."

Gabriella Ottersberg, 10 and Stewart Ottersberg, 11, feel the same way.

"It's fun because it helps us understand," Gabriella said. "If I don't get something he helps me."

"I have someone I can trust and talk to," Stewart said.

Siblings Javier Sernas, 11, and Daniel Estrada, 8, help each other get ready before rehearsals.

"It's fun," Javier said.

It's the first performance that Eliana Bell, 10, and RayLee Bell, 11, will be in together.

"It's a bonding time," Eliana said.

"It kind of made us closer," RayLee said.

The siblings are performing in NDI's annual musical. Last year the musical was *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This year, they chose *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* because it would appeal to "anyone who has ever worked in an office," said Donna Scheer, NDI's executive director.

The story follows J. Pierrepont Finch – played by Guy Mannick, a Monte del Sol junior – a window cleaner in 1965 who discovers the book *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, through which he learns the secret of corporate success. His ambition and

his newfound knowledge lead him straight to the top of a world filled with bosses, dancing secretaries, backstabbing co-workers and true love.

“This musical is so much fun and stretches the students’ singing and acting skills by performing in a period piece,” Scheer said in a news release.

“They have no idea what the ‘60s were like in general, and so it’s been fun to watch them discover actual things about the ‘60s,” Scheer said. “It’s been a great bonus to show them a little piece of history, although it’s theatricalized and funny.”

“I like it because it’s in the 1960s, so you can be bright and colorful and it’s just kind of fun,” Olivia said.

The Ottersberg kids say the music in the play is infectious. They said they’ve been scolded in their classes at Agua Fria Elementary because they can’t stop singing.

Gabriella said the audience will enjoy the comedy the most.

Scheer agrees.

“Anyone who has ever worked in an office or worked in a business will find so many things funny about this; they’ll just fall all over themselves in some places,” Scheer said.

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