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GRYMES HILL

Wagner College ranked high on list by Princeton Review

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Wagner College has been named one of America's top colleges in the Princeton Review's 2018 "Best 384 Colleges" guide.

The Wagner College Theatre program was ranked no. 5 in the nation, ahead of Muhlenberg, Bennington, Sarah Lawrence and Bard colleges, as well as Columbia, Drew and Northwestern universities.

"The quality of our programs, the dedication of our faculty, and our focus on combining theory and practice make Wagner, year after year, one of America's best colleges," said Jeffrey Kraus, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Wagner College.

Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges are profiled in the "Best 384 Colleges" book, which is the Princeton Review's flagship college guide.

It includes detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores for all schools in eight categories, based on the Princeton Review's surveys of students attending the colleges.

Wagner College students describe the Grymes Hill school as a "tight-knit and fun, yet academically challenging" liberal arts school. The school is "in the perfect location with a surplus of unique resources" and is

composed of "an excellent and vibrant community that supports its students every step of the way."

Students also said Wagner "lets you experience all different types of subjects by following the concept: learning by doing."

Wagner's theater department has been ranked among the top 5 collegiate theater programs in the United States by the Princeton Review for more than a decade.

"The ranking reflects the ownership our students — not just theater students, but all students at Wagner College — feel over the department and the pride they take in our hard work," said Felicia Ruff, chairwoman of the Wagner College Theatre department.

Wagner College Theatre graduate Alex Boniello secured the role of Connor Murphy on Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical "Dear Evan Hansen." He is joined by former Wagner Theatre majors Daniella Buccino, an assistant stage manager, and Olivia Buckett, an understudy.

The department, created in 1968, has a long list of distinguished alumni, from Tony Award winner Randy Graff '76 to "Jersey Boys" film star Renee Marino '04.