

## ***Heathwood Theatre Students Advanced to National Level***

Sixteen Heathwood Upper School students participated in the South Carolina Thespians conference in Beaufort, SC, January 17-19, 2004. These students achieved impressive successes in both individual events and one-act play competition, receiving numerous advancements to the 2004 Thespian Festival in June at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Educational Theatre Association describes the Thespian Festival as “the best week of high school theatre in the country,” with presentations by “schools from throughout North America and abroad.”

The one-act play “The Love Course,” directed by Heathwood faculty member Melissa Swick and assistant directed by junior Whitney Bragg, placed Second in the state. Cast members included Adam Cupples, William Ellerbe, Amanda Reuter, and Anna Williams; Whitney Waites served as technical crew. This production is one of two in the state recommended for advancement to the Regional Play Marathon (a non-competitive event) at the Thespian Festival.

In Individual Event competition, Heathwood students were state winners in two events, placing First in Solo Pantomime (Erica Richardson) and Duet Pantomime (Erica Richardson and Whitney Waites). Individual Event winners are eligible for advancement to competition at the national level.

In addition to the winner in an Individual Event, judges may (but are not required to) recommend up to five entries that earn superior or excellent ratings for advancement to national competition. Two Heathwood entries were recommended for advancement to the national level in this manner: our Group Musical entry (Lynette Spigner, Amanda Reuter, Anna Williams, Eliza Dunaway, Hannah Floyd, Shawnee Garrick, Whitney Waites, and Suzanne Carney) was recognized as one of only two entries selected for advancement, and our Solo Musical event (Lynette Spigner) was one of five recognized for advancement.

These achievements represent the first time Heathwood students have qualified for Thespian individual event competition at the national level. In addition, Heathwood is the only independent school in the state to pursue and receive recognition from the SC Thespians conference this year.

Other honors bestowed on Heathwood students at the SC Thespians conference 2004 included Best Supporting Actor (Adam Cupples) and All-Star Cast (William Ellerbe).