

## **Dana Ferguson Don Trivett Award Speech**

Good evening. I'd like to begin by saying how deeply honored I am to receive the Don Trivette Fine Arts Award along with Douglas. I am flattered to be recognized among such an elite class of talented artists. But the truth is, every one of my peers is deserving of praise for their outstanding talents and accomplishments. I've been blessed to have spent the majority of my life learning and growing alongside the most gifted young individuals in the city... You all never cease to amaze me. From paintings worthy of hanging in any great museum to voices that have moved my mother to tears, you all are truly exceptional artists, brought together by one exceptional school.

SCAPA has given us the unique opportunity to not only cultivate our artistic abilities but to share them with others. I can't think of any other school that would allow me to perform in over 25 productions throughout my school career. SCAPA has provided a rare environment that emphasizes the power of artistic expression, while maintaining a standard of excellence in academics. It is because of SCAPA that we have developed into the well-rounded individuals we are today. Whether you're a 9-year vet or a recent newbie to the program, I'm sure you'd all agree that SCAPA is a family unlike any other. It's a supportive community comprised of life-long friends,

devoted teachers, and caring parents. It's a character-building experience that would not have been possible without the support of all of you.

As performing arts students, we've taken center stage for years, it's finally time to raise the curtain and recognize the people behind the scenes. I wish to extend my gratitude to all of you who are here tonight. The people who care and have made a difference in my life and in the lives of my classmates are right here...in this very room. First, thank you to our beloved teachers. You have shaped us into the artists we are today. You have given us inspiration, knowledge, and compassion. You have pushed us further than we ever-expected possible and believed in our potential when we lost motivation. Thank you teachers for being our advocates in school and in life, I doubt you'll ever really understand what a profound impact you've had on the lives of your students. A second thank you goes to the many proud parents here tonight. All that we have accomplished can be credited to your undying support over the years. Part of what makes SCAPA such an amazing place is the unbelievable amount of encouragement and involvement from our parents. I truly mean it when I say that none of this could have been possible without your contributions. You are all to thank for helping us reach this turning point in life.

When I first came to SCAPA, I couldn't fathom making it through the eighth grade, let alone high school, and here we are just two weeks from graduation.

I remember as a fourth grader, I looked at high school with such awe. It almost seemed like a distant dream. Each year I took a step closer, but it always seemed so far away. And yet tonight, I stand up here representing the realization of that dream. After years of waking up and dancing every morning, I can now count my remaining dance classes on two hands. After years of performing on the Opera House stage, I have taken my final bow and watched the curtains close on my last SCAPA production. Though our time with SCAPA is quickly coming to an end, memories of our SCAPA adventures and the lessons we have learned will last a lifetime.

I once read that life is a blank canvas waiting for you to paint your future upon it any way you choose. As I stand before my fellow Scapians, I see more than just a graduating class, I see a group of artists waiting to exhibit their art to the rest of the world. We have all been given beautiful talents, what we do with them now is up to us. SCAPA has given us the means, now

we stand alone with a paintbrush and palette ready to paint whatever we want on our “canvases of life”.

In short, I am honored to receive this prestigious award but it brings me greater honor to have been apart of a remarkable community and to have called SCAPA my home for so many years.

Thank You to Everyone.