



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JON POMPIA

East High School students (from left) Jeremiah Coca, Danae Moore, Jade Jaquez, Faizah Howard and Julian Padilla are part of the cast of the 'Dreamgirls' musical.

EDUCATION

East performers soar into 'Dreamgirls'

Musical is school's first in two years

BY JON POMPIA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Every day since January, 35 performers and 20 production team members have spent two hours readying East High School's biennial school musical for the viewing public.

The extravagant fruit of those labors, "Dreamgirls," will be unveiled this weekend in East's auditorium.

A timeless musical about love, friendship and the rewarding-yet-cold world that is show business,

"Dreamgirls" will feature the talents of Danae Moore (as Effie White), Jade Jaquez (Dena Jones), Faizah Howard (Lorrell Robinson), Jeremiah Coca (Curtis Taylor Jr.) and Julian Padilla (Jimmy "Thunder" Early) in lead roles.

With its relatable characters, uplifting music (Motown to disco) and a heart-rending story, "Dreamgirls" remains a classic in musical theater history, and we here at East are proud to present this production for the first time in Pueblo," said Andrew Watson, East's vocal director.

As the main roles require both acting and vocal chops, Jaquez said preparations have been a labor of love, but a labor none-

theless.

"It's been a lot of hard work and a lot of time," she said. "A lot of hours and a lot of rehearsing — even after hours of rehearsal it's rehearsing — nonstop for two months."

Added Watson, "All of the students have put in incredible amounts of time and work — every day excluding weekends — from rehearsal to practice to working the set.

"By doing a musical only every two years, there's a little bit more urgency for students to try out and do their best."

Showtimes on Friday and Saturday are 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets, priced at \$5, are available at the door.

jpompia@chieftain.com