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PRESS RELEASE

Springwood receives two First Place Awards at the Alabama Independent School Association Drama Festival

In a field of twenty-one schools, Springwood School copped two First Place awards at the Alabama Independent Schools Association Drama Festival at Faulkner University on January 22. In the four-event competition, Springwood won in Duet and Ensemble. Other events are Solo and Musical Drama.

Bendell brothers, Calem and Rhys, won with a scene from *The Producers*, portraying Bialystock and Leo Bloom, respectively. The scene, a crowd-pleaser at the festival, is the initial meeting of Bialystock, former Broadway wizard fallen on hard times, and Bloom, an eccentric and hapless accountant sent to audit the books.

Drama coach, Dale Freeman said of the performance, "Their timing, their delivery, and their body language were truly excellent. They peaked at the right time."

Calem and Rhys Bendell, both named to the State All-Star Cast, teamed with Alex Caldwell, Evan Johnson, and "Boone" Rodimon in Monty Python's "Self-Defense Class" to win in Ensemble. "The competition was 'fierce,'" said Freeman, "but the boys pulled it off by acting to and off each other in true ensemble mode."

Springwood was represented in Musical Drama by Kimberly Reynolds, Nicole Pinckard, and Gerd'A Nice Noel performing "The Tea Party," from the Broadway musical *Dear World*; and in Solo by Luci Willis as Emily Dickinson in a scene from *The Belle of Amherst*. "All," said Freeman, "performed admirably. They acquitted themselves with aplomb in the true Springwood tradition." Mrs. Traci Martin was the pianist accompanist for "The Tea Party."

The Springwood drama group's next performance will be a dinner theater April 10 at the Springwood Fine Arts Center.

Complete results of the Drama Festival can be viewed at aisaonline.org. Click on *Academic Programs* and then on *Drama*.



Pictured is the Springwood School Drama Team: Front (l-r) Alex Caldwell, Haley Hamer, Luci Willis, Rhys Bendell, Kimberly Reynolds, Gerd'A Nice Noel, Back (l-r) Nicole Pinckard, Boone Rodimon, Evan Johnson, Calem Bendell, and Drama Coach, Mr. Dale Freeman