

GESM Goes to Tinsel town

by Spyros Ravanopoulos, IB student

On Wednesday 12th of November, students of EIS-GESM participated in the school's very first commercial advertisement. Led by director and producer, Jörg Schifferer, an invasion of camera crews and production crews filled our campus leaving us in awe with their patience and persistence.



Students of GESM were given tasks to complete before the actual date of shooting. Many students participated and were divided into their respective sections such as production design, make-up and wardrobe and casting. A massive collaboration of school management, students and faculty helped make up this whole project and propelled it to success. Students of all levels were present; from kindergarten to the IB Diploma program.

I was personally involved in this project. I was the head of make-up and wardrobe department. Our day started earlier than normal. A normal day that usually started at 7:30 am started at 6:00 am. The very first department present was the make-up and wardrobe, the camera crews followed shortly after. We (make-up and wardrobe) set up our group inside the school auditorium and then the first wave of actors came about and we set up for our jobs.



The very first scene started with a bit of delay as we all waited for actors to come but when they had all arrived, the shooting was a go! We first shot in the front of our campus and this scene was executed with an air of professionalism and to think that we were first handling four to six year old children. As we moved on, scene by scene, many more challenges came along but we were successful in dealing with all of them.

By the time we reached mid-day, we were all exhausted due to the heat, due to time management and due to stress, but we did not falter; we became even better because we all enjoyed what we were doing. To be honest, who wouldn't want to be in a



commercial? One of the biggest scenes we had to shoot was the whole group scenes which were divided into two parts. One as the whole group was entering the school and the other as a whole group posing outside. We were all included which gave everyone, big or small, a chance to be included in this commercial.



As we reached the end of the shoot, we were getting on the edge of our seats as we were given a big task, we were suppose to ask all of the French students to leave the playground as this commercial was a GESM production and any EFM student would have caused problems for our whole production team. But again we were successful in handling this task and our shooting was not compromised. Everyone was happy as we were about to finish. The list of pending scenes became shorter but as any

normal human beings, we were given a lunch break but then hastily went back to work right after eating.

The best part of the day for most of us was when I personally did the make-up of one of our school teachers and our IB Coordinator, Mr. Heinmuller [picture below].



A few of our colleagues and friends watched as I gave this man his make-up experience. I have to admit, it was not easy, the pressure was so much because I was afraid I might make him too feminine for his role as a teacher, but I was successful in doing this task to the best of my capabilities. I knew those years of doing make-up for theatre would pay off someday!

By the end of the day, we all had to pull the final stretch and reached the finish line after a whole day of shooting. After all we had been through - 10 hours of shooting, heat, stress, time management, crowd control, power trips - we were successful and completed this challenge to the best of our capabilities and we are happy to say that even our director was pleased and praised us for doing more than what he had expected out of students who had a full schedule.