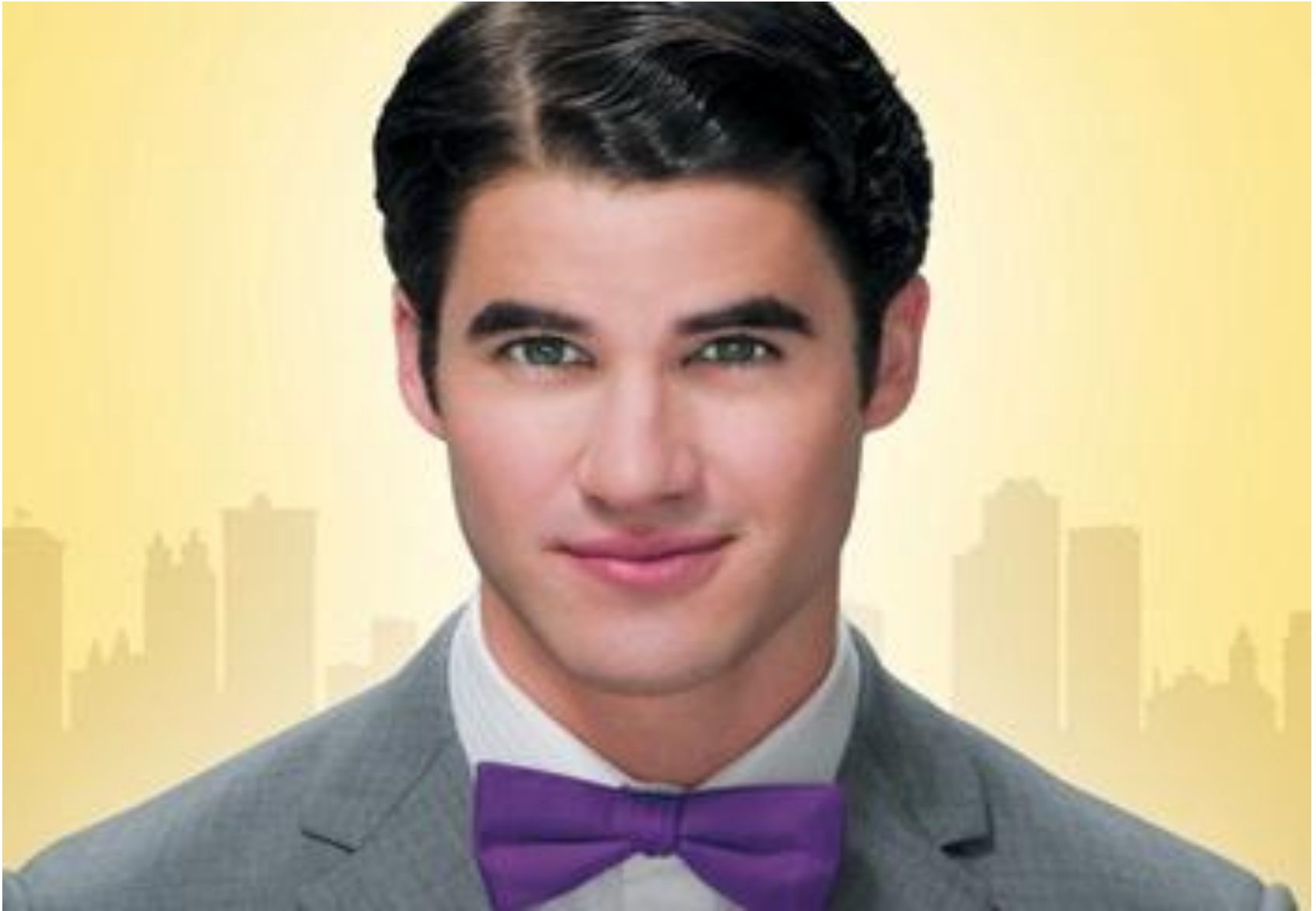


Photo courtesy of CelebTV.ru



Darren Criss

By: Bennett Leeds

(Continued from front cover...)

Of course, it was slightly unsettling when (quite literally) hundreds of Darren Criss fans started screaming at the sight of his face, but Criss simply flashed a charming grin and began the show's opening number completely in character, sending the entire crowd on a hilarious, fantastical journey through the life of J. Pierrepont Finch, a measly window-washer who rapidly climbs the ladder to success in a major company.

During his journey in the world of business, Finch encounters nearly every type of businessman; the devoted employee who is satisfied with a simple mailroom position (Mr. Twimble, played by Rob Bartlett), the department head with a noticeable sex drive (Mr. Bratt, played by Michael Park), and finally, the spoiled, pampered nephew of the company's president (Bud Frump, played by Christopher J. Hanke).

Many of these men take a liking to Finch's charm and help him to progress his business ventures. However, Bud Frump decides that if anyone should be climbing the corporate ladder, it should

be himself. Conflict escalates as Frump tries to ruin Finch, though he ultimately fails as the audience watches Finch rise to the Chairman of the Board of his own company.

Throughout the entire show, the audience is kept involved and entertained with high-energy numbers such as "Paris Original," a hilarious song in which every woman in the office manages to order what they all think to be the same "original" dress for an office party. Risqué relationships at work are explained during the scene titled "A Secretary Is Not a Toy," where the executives of the company (World Wide Wickets) are all tempted by the new, stunningly gorgeous secretary at work.

A particularly exciting number was "Coffee Break," led by Bud Frump and a gawky secretary named Smitty (played by Mary Farber). During this number, the workers are given their regular coffee break, a time to relieve office tension with a quick cup of coffee. However, when Bud Frump drains the last drop out of the coffee machine, the ensemble goes into an

elaborate, energetic dance expressing their angst due to the lack of coffee.

The lyrics to this number in themselves are enough to send an audience laughing hysterically (If I can't take/My coffee break/Something within me DIES!), and keep them there for the entirety of the song (with control, hopefully. Laughing while someone is trying to perform is rather rude!).

The entire show was a great load of fun, and I would recommend anyone looking for a nice night in the City filled with laughs to go see it! Having stayed after the performance to speak with a few of the actors, I had the honor of talking with cast member Joey Sorge, who had coincidentally had his last night of performing the show. Mr. Sorge spoke very highly of Darren's backstage manners, commenting on how he made the transition from Daniel Radcliffe as seamless as possible, and is holding up B-way expectations.

In short, Darren Criss and his performance was loved by both his cast mates and the audience, and I couldn't have asked for a more satisfying "J. Pierrepont" to light up the stage.

Artist on the Rise: Lana Del Rey

By Vanessa Salman

Photo courtesy of Broadway.com

Who is Lana Del Rey, you ask? Lana, legally Elizabeth Grant, is a singer/songwriter from Lake Placid, New York who is making her way into the spotlight. Although her first professionally recorded EP was released in 2010, Del Rey has only recently emerged into the public eye. The indie-pop artist surely is growing in popularity; her latest single "Born to Die" has over 12 **million** views, and she was featured on the cover of the January edition of Billboard magazine.

For all of you religious SNL viewers, you may have seen her January 14 performance, which has received mixed reviews. Some described it as uncomfortable to watch, while others said it was great considering that it was her first time in front of such a large audience. She performed two of her most recent hits, "Video Games" and "Blue Jeans," which are on her latest self-titled EP, released on January 10, 2012 and will also be on her upcoming full-length album *Born to Die*, set for release on January 31, 2012.

Del Rey has been compared to artists such as Florence + the Machine and Adele; however, she has her own individual flair. Will she be the Adele of 2012? Take a peek at her YouTube channel: [LanaDelReyVevo](#) or find her on iTunes and determine that for yourself!



Artists You Ought to Know

By: Leah Hazen



Photo courtesy of Last.fm

Kaskade – Electronic

Flux Paviion – Dubstep

Atmosphere – Rap

A Day To Remember – Punk Rock/ hardcore

Jay Brennan -- Singer-songwriter

Skillet – Christian Rock

John Denver – Country

Above & Beyond – Trance

Bring Me The Horizon- Screamo/Metalcore

Breathe Carolina – Electronic Rock

If you have an artist you would like us to review in the next issue, please e-mail LJudith13@AOL.com