



Benazir Sadar '10

Dragon Spotlight: Allison and Emily Townsend

Although the Drew School Talent Show was a few months ago, the winning performance by Allison and Emily Townsend has hardly been forgotten. Singing and playing guitar to *The Only Exception* by Emily's favorite group, Paramore, the Townsend twins demonstrated an amazing talent of which few Dragons were even aware. The most impressive part of their act? The twins threw the performance together the night before the talent show. Allison tells *The Werd*, "I can't play guitar at all...Emily taught me a few notes two days before the talent show..." Emily, however, loves to play: "[I've been playing for] 6 years."

The passion the twins share is singing. Song seems to be a regular facet of the Townsend household. Emily shares, "Allison and I are constantly singing around the house harmonizing to the newest DRAGON'S LAIR 2

songs... especially in the morning while we are getting ready for school."

With their victory in the talent show giving them momentum, the twins impart their musical aspirations for beyond Drew. When asked about plans to start a band, Emily explains, "Heck yeah!... Allison and I want to be the new 'Aly and AJ'. We would be the harmonizing twins with a sick band name like 'Alter Ego'." She continues, "We want this name because even though we are twins we are each other's exact opposites... Even though it is a high goal, the talent show was just the next step towards that. But it's both for fun and maybe to take to a career."

Allison adds, "Emily and I are *definitely* going to be famous some day...we have some major talent."

While fame may be a long way off, there is still the Drew music program. Both the girls tell *The Werd*

they want to get involved. But Allison confesses, "I don't think I could ever go through with it because of my nerves and extreme stage fright!" But as their performance showed, the two have nothing to be nervous about.

Of course, practice is essential to maintaining any talent. For the Townsend twins, however, it's not the typical kind of practice. Allison states, "The only practice we have singing is when we get dressed in the morning and start to harmonize to a song that is stuck in our heads." Emily adds, "I play guitar everyday in my spare time."

Being twins has certainly had its perks for the girls when it comes to singing: for them, the harmonizing comes naturally. Emily says "It's strange because we just magically know the parts of the song to harmonize. If Allison bursts out into a song, I'll just join right

in with the harmonizing part..." She laughs, "I think the harmonizing comes along with being a twin."

With music an everyday fixture in their lives, coming up with a performance for the talent show was easy, for the most part. Their act selection seems a natural one: "We are obsessed with the band Paramore, so decided to play one of their songs but we also wanted to show off our harmonizing skills. We knew we wanted to play guitar and sing but it was just a matter of what song." says Emily.

Allison tells us, however, of their true inspiration for entering the contest: "we only joked about actually doing the talent show at first; we decided to try something new, and attempt conquering our fears." In the end, the girls conquered their fear – and the result was a winning performance.

-Maddie Felder