

Hinman Follies

Hinman Follies was the brainchild of many figures in early Hinman history. During his days in high school, Stan Goldberg was involved in an event called Class Night where the different classes performed musical skits and competed against one another. Also during this time, Janet Krulick and Marcy Mashioff had a similar event at their high school, Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, called the Sing.¹ Combining all the elements from all of these events and adding a little bit of Bob Giomi magic (and permission), and the Hinman Follies were created.

The basic concept of Hinman Follies was to create comedic skits set to music and following a designated theme. Each of the buildings would compete against each other for the bragging rights. They would practice for months, build props and rudimentary sets, and then on the night of the performance, cart all of those items down to the Women's Gym (now the East Gym) where the performance would be held. The skits were typically elaborate, with lots of song and dance numbers and intricate choreography. They would also poke fun at many Hinman institutions and popular figures in Hinman. Vito Sinisi and Bob Giomi were popular figures of impersonation and satire.

For nearly a decade, Hinman Follies entertained audiences from Hinman and beyond. It was a welcome activity that was a great sense of pride for all those who participated in this unique Hinman event. Although Hinman Follies would not last beyond the early 1980's (for reasons unclear), it was the inspiration for many subsequent Hinman traditions like Bus Stop, Rockefeller Room, Dorm Wars and Hysteria. Although Hinman Follies may no longer exist as it

did during its heyday, its legacy lives on whenever there are songs and skits performed live during other great Hinman events.¹

¹ Janet Krulick, e-mail message to author, March 28, 2007.

¹ For more detailed information on Hinman Follies, see the chapter on Hinman Community-based Theater.