

# BRADY BURT RISES ABOVE ADVERSITY TO BECOME GREAT

by Liat Rubin  
Editor-in-Chief

When senior **Brady Burt** walks into a room, you'll know he's there. Dressed in perfectly tailored vintage and designer pieces, assembled into a simplistic yet highly-coordinated outfit, Burt and his unparalleled style demand the attention of onlookers. To add even more to the unique character that is Brady Burt, he carries himself with a profound confidence, and with what is best described by his fashion icon Diana Vreeland as a "sartorial elegance." An extraordinarily talented, fascinating, and creative young man, Burt has fought hard to get to where he is today.

Burt began what would be a long journey towards a career in fashion at just eleven years old by drawing animals and nature. Burt observed the muscles, body and fluidity of animals, and noted how they seemed to relate into the human body. After his interest peaked and family members took notice, Burt started meeting with a fashion-designer mentor and officially transitioned from someone who mainly enjoyed art as a hobby, to an up-and-coming designer who found a home in the world of fashion, design, and illustration. For Burt, this transition



photos courtesy B. Burt

was an easy one, "I've always absorbed what I see in the world, this was just me making it into clothing."

Burt's evolution as a designer was no simple feat; it came hand in hand and depended heavily upon his evolution as a gay man coming into his own. After discovering that he had a passion for fashion and design, Brady was still not comfortable enough with his identity to be willing to accept the path he knew he wanted to follow. He struggled greatly with the hurtful comments: "I couldn't handle the anxiety of being around my peers. I was constantly attacked by questions like 'Why does he talk like that?' Why does he talk in that tone?' 'Do you think he's gay?' There were just too many outside voices subjecting me to so much pain."

Eventually the abuse at school led to a breaking point for Burt, who remembers telling his mom at age twelve that she "wouldn't have a son in a year" if he was to stay at his middle school at the time. His mother immediately removed him and placed him in Alameda Country School for Burt's seventh and eighth grade years. There, Burt would find a more accepting community and a perfect venue for a "new beginning."

After a successful hiatus from the Los Gatos school system and great development as an artist, Burt decided to attend LGHS for his freshman year. Looking back on that year, and the fall semester of sophomore year that followed, Burt says, "I don't know how I got through it." He was frustrated with the fact that he was largely known as the "scrawny gay kid," and that he knew he wanted to pursue fashion, but felt pressured to join sports or take AP classes. He said, "I felt like I was acting every day, damn well knowing my sexual orientation. I just couldn't be raw, and I couldn't be myself in every sense of the word."

Burt recounted what was a major turning point in his development, and his reason for leaving LGHS after the fall semester of his sophomore year: "I remember waking up in the morning and looking at myself in the mirror. I said to myself, 'I could spend the rest of my life pretending to be someone I'm not, portraying someone that is aside from my path, aside from my character, aside from what I've been raised to be, or I could take the long, painful road to finally being fluid and whole with who I know I am.'" This realization pushed Burt to enroll at Fusion Academy where he was able to discover himself as a designer and homosexual teen. He took one-on-one classes with mentors and finished classes in the early afternoon. He used his now free schedule to travel to the Mission and Haight-Ashbury districts of San Francisco, alone or with his aunt, where he met an incredibly diverse group of individuals in both the world of fashion and drag queens. He realized that he had "craved culture and authenticity" his whole life, and was finally getting it.



Burt took an art class at Fusion, but not one that was fashion-focused. To continue pursuing his passion, he would make each project into his own: "If my teacher gave me an assignment on painting or watercoloring, I would do a watercolor of a chiffon dress with a different texture in the headpiece or something." Burt taught himself the daunting task of drawing models by looking in the mirror and contorting his own body, observing the effects of different movements and paying special attention to collarbones and neck movements.

After his junior year at Fusion, Burt applied for and was accepted into a prestigious summer program at the Parsons School of Design in New York City. Burt and his mother nearly cried after hearing the news. Burt said that, "I had become so self-doubting and anxious after many difficult years. It made me feel so good that the professors recognized the worth I knew I had."

The Parsons camp helped expose Brady to all aspects of the fashion industry, "it's one thing to say you want to be in the industry, but there are so many complexities and little niches. There's everything from illustrating, marketing, accessorizing, and creative directing! But you've got to start somewhere." Burt went into the camp as a fashion illustrator and was given the opportunity to sketch famous models like Grace Boll and Devon Windsor, an experience he describes as an "absolute honor." He formed close connections with his talented professors, some who had trained hundreds of incredibly talented designers, including Alexander Wang and Tom Ford.

Earlier this year, Burt was admitted into the Parsons School of Design, one of the top design schools in the country, where he will begin college in the fall. Burt hopes one day to become a creative director of a "forthcoming, timeless, innovative brand that still pays its respects to the 'greats' before it," or at least to be in the kind of financial state that allows him to purchase as much Céline attire as possible.

His admittance into Parsons was the ultimate reward for Burt, who had been through so much to reach this point in his life. To put it simply, he said, "Being able to accept who I looked at in the mirror was an art in itself."

In an observation of his own personal style, Burt said, "everything you wear is a reflection of what you think about yourself and the world around you." During his freshman year, Burt wore loud prints and bright colors. He was naive and "coming into my identity as a fashion designer and homosexual. There was a lot of complexity in my clothes, as I had yet to understand who I really was."

Now, Burt wears clean, tailored lines. He often sports his favorite pair of Céline sunglasses and a few additional accessories, but overall, is primarily minimalist. Coming into his own may have been a difficult journey, but Burt approaches his future with excitement and positivity, sure of who he is and who he wants to be.

# Ghosh proves that intellectuals can rap

by Brian Schunk  
Sports Editor

Sophomore **Rishav Ghosh** might just be the most interesting man at LGHS. In fact, fellow sophomore **Will Pittock** even said, "People often compare him to the Dos Equis guy." It's not without good reason.

There's no one word to describe Ghosh; even an entire haiku would hardly suffice. That being said, Ghosh was able to come up with one just for this occasion. It goes, "Burning down the house/ rock you like a hurricane/ don't stop believing." That right there is the very essence of Ghosh.

"I'm a lion, king of the kingdom," said Ghosh, when asked which animal he most closely resembles. It's easy to see why Ghosh could be compared to the fierce beast, since by all accounts, he is one himself.

Ghosh is a confident man. When asked how he would perform in a beauty pageant, he went as far as to say, "first place," but more revealing about him was his response to the question, "in what part of the competition would you perform the best? Ghosh was quick to say "I've got pretty good curves, but I feel like the questioning part, you know; I just touch people's hearts." Therein lies the secret to Ghosh's confidence and his character. He uses his unique combination of intelligence and wit to have you in stitches. He doesn't take life, or himself, too seriously.

At the same time, Ghosh is as dependable as they come. As the captain and starting libero of the boys' junior varsity volleyball team, Ghosh leads by example. "I always try my hardest, so whether we win or lose, I left it all out on the court." His efforts have come to fruition in his play. Fellow sophomore and teammate **Christian Kelly** remarks that, "Rishav has the best floater serve I've ever seen at our level, and he makes it look effortless." Ghosh has also earned the respect of fellow volleyball player and close friend sophomore **Rion Farhadi**, who commented on how one day, if he had a daughter, he'd like her to date a "stand up guy like Rishav." Junior **Kevin Closson** corroborated, saying "Rishav has a really good work ethic, and is overall a quality guy."

No, Ghosh is not the strongest man. Pittock confirmed this when he was asked if he would pick Ghosh to back him up in a fistfight and said, "no, but if it were a battle of wits, he'd be my number one guy." Ghosh has

always been a brains over brawn kind of guy. He commented, "I consider myself an intellectual. I always do my homework."

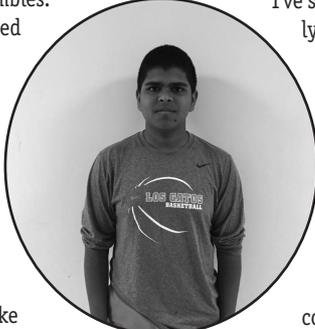
When he isn't challenging himself with schoolwork or volleyball, Ghosh works on building the legend that is his rapchat presence. Of it, he said, "I spit fire non-stop. I roast people on the daily." Asked if he ever worries that he may offend someone, Ghosh responded, "I take into account people's feelings, but when I'm on fire, you can't stop the fire." Pittock confirmed that Ghosh's raps are glorious, declaring, "It's intense. It's crazy. I've seen hearts broken. I've seen lives change." Ghosh's favorite rap lyric of all time is Lil Wayne's "Never talk to the cops, I don't speak pig latin."

Explaining why this resonates with him, he said, "I'm not just gonna say what people want to hear. I'm gonna say what I want to say." Pittock added that Ghosh is a wealth of much needed honesty, even brutal at times, but it remains true that "Rishav is the friend I can count on."

Wit, dedication, intelligence, and dependability: behind all this is Ghosh's incredible drive. Ghosh always strives to be great. When asked what his motto is, he said, "To paraphrase Confucius, I shoot for the moon, so if I miss I land among the stars." He then added, "I'd also like to quote Shakespeare here. It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves."

Ghosh has found happiness knowing himself and knowing what he wants. He explains his greatest weakness by saying "To quote Sun Tzu, it's my lack of humility." If a lack of humility works to his disadvantage, its effects are certainly countered by an abundance of charm. Not too often can you find such a combination of levity and self-awareness in a single person. In addition, Ghosh knows what he's looking for in a companion: "eyebrows better be on fleek."

When asked for any final words, Ghosh responded in true Dos Equis man form, "I don't always misquote historical figures, but when I do, it's profound." He then added, "Make sure to subscribe to my youtube channel. I've got 13 videos that will tickle your tummy, and seven subs."



B. Schunk

# ROBERTS FINDS NEW HOME IN LG

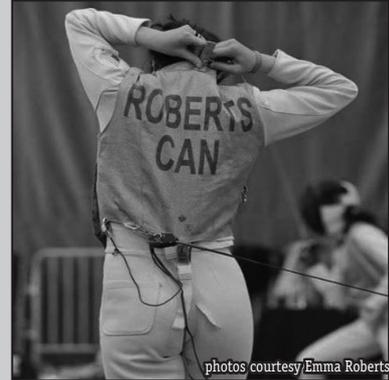
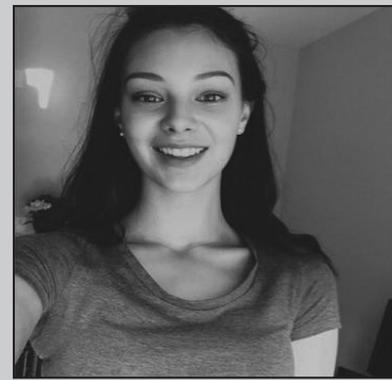
by Sean Clark  
Culture Editor

Not everyone can find a silver lining in moving like junior **Emma Roberts** can. Roberts was born in England, and has since lived in France, Canada, and now America. Throughout her moves through three different countries, Roberts has maintained an optimistic attitude through recognizing the value of immersing herself in new cultures: "I like to think on the positive side."

In Canada, Roberts attended a French-speaking school in Ottawa where she honed her second language, French, and her fencing ability. When asked about her skill in fencing, Roberts modestly stated that she hopes she's good at fencing, and then followed by saying she has traveled to multiple countries for tournaments, including Germany for a world cup competition.

The academic transition from the lax Canadian education system to a rigorous AP course load in America has been tough, but Roberts is embracing high school in America. Upon arriving in America in Jan. 2015, Roberts decided to raise her academic standards to succeed in a harder education system. The British native loves her U.S. history and psychology classes.

Though she is slightly surprised that LGHS is not like Mean Girls or One Tree Hill, she loves the school spirit, which was absent in her previous schools: "The spirit rally was crazy, it was so much fun. Everyone has so much spirit, and pep rallies were not like that at my old school. Everyone was participating, even the teachers."



photos courtesy Emma Roberts

Though American high school ended up being less glamorous than it is in the movies, Roberts was glad to discover that In-N-Out Burger is as good as everyone says it is. Ready to explore her new home and immerse herself in American culture, Roberts has embarked on adventures in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Big Sur. Roberts has even picked up surfing since moving to the Bay Area. Coming from a place that can get as cold as -40 degrees celsius, Roberts has deemed California her favorite home thus far.

The world traveller doesn't plan on staying long; Roberts is planning on applying to schools in London, and will one day travel to the Middle East and Asia before settling down in New York.

With a little help from her new fencing team and group of friends, junior Emma Roberts has seamlessly and eagerly transitioned into a sunny Californian lifestyle: "I haven't actually had someone not be nice to me... everyone seems really happy."