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audience reviews

Les Miserables, School Edition, Woodland Opera House

Review: This was a most fabulous show. It's hard to believe these performers are all youth performers. The leads voices are wonderful and the show is powerful.

Review: This play has Elly Awards all though it!! You'd think these young Actors were professionals. I have been to many plays as far away as London UK. and to not have to travel across the sea to see this type of performance is fantastic!!! You laugh you cry you feel the emotion in every scene. If you see only one play this season don't miss this one....

Review: Never before have I seen a group of young people put together such a professional show. Les Miserables is a fantastic show on paper, and the young people at Woodland Opera House made it a phenomenal show on stage. The young man playing the role of Jean Val Jean played his character so well, it came as a shock to find out he was only 16 years old. I found the musical numbers' "I Dreamed a Dream" "On My Own" and "Bring Him Home" especially moving. Thenardier was also perfectly matched with his role. Bringing a character so elaborate to the stage, he performed his character with style. Eponine, Fantine and Cosette all had beautiful voices which matched their characters perfectly. Although Gavroche and a few ensemble members were difficult to understand, I recommend this show to anyone and everyone. Not a moment will pass during this show where you will not be impressed I guarantee it.

Review: Absolutely fantastic show! I have never seen Les Mis School Edition done so well. These kids understood the show so well it blew me away. fantastic

Review: This production was wonderful!! A very talented group of young men and women, both leads and ensemble. Many memorable moments, and only a few low points for me. The low points end up going out the window in the end though because the 2nd Act Finale will leave you begging for more! Some standout performances in my opinion are:

-Valjean, Spenser M. took on a very demanding role and surprised me. Although there were moments where I wished he made more committed and clear decisions with his character, he had me bought once I heard and saw his rendition of Bring Him Home. In my opinion, he was the strongest male voice on that stage.

-Thenardier, Casey C. also surprised me with his outstanding control of the character he

portrayed. Deliciously vile, and carefully humorous. The most constant character throughout the play in my opinion. It was very relieving to see Camacho finally take control. This has to be the most powerful performance I have seen him give yet. My only concern was that his voice was not as bright and resonating as I have heard him sound before, perhaps he had a cold that night although I have heard the same concern from others who have also seen him in this show.

-Young Cosette, Erin B. was a delight to watch. Strong promising talent.

-Eponine, HALEYANNE F. did a beautiful job as well. Her voice was very strong and emotive which worked perfectly in her portrayal of a lonely young girl with a love that could never be. The only thing that was distracting with Freedman's performance was her well-groomed nails that seemed to draw my eyes at the very movement of her hands. The character of Eponine would not have been able to get a manicure.

-Cosette, Kara J had a magnificent operatic sound that resonated beautifully throughout the audience. Clearly a singer who likes to act, but promising nonetheless. My biggest compliment to her is that unlike other renditions I have seen of this character, the most impressive thing is that I could understand the majority of the words she was singing...this is a huge problem with sopranos. James has it down.

-Fantine, I had never seen Erin M. perform before but it was definitely a nice addition to the cast. Beautiful voice and very promising. I Dreamed a Dream was very controlled and sounded well throughout, I was just not impressed by the direction during the song. I was highly attentive to Mulvey at the beginning of her song, but once it had taken off, if it was not for her voice I would have not continued to remain interested. This is strange to me because usually VYVLECKA cultivates very rich performances, not with this scene.

Most memorable moment:

-The three-part harmony between Valjean, Fantine, and Eponine as the 2nd Act comes to an end. Eponine with her powerful control on the lower notes, and Mulvey and Mecetich holding their own with melody and second harmony. I can still hear it in my head and get chills every time.

My biggest concern with this show:

-Javert, Jordan G. was definitely the weak link in this production. Although it was quite clear that Gutierrez was highly committed to his role, it was not enough to cover up that he was a novice amongst a cast of very talented performers. Javert's songs were a definite challenge for this strictly baritone performer, and his rendition of the Law in this very well put-together show left some of us in the audience unfulfilled. There were very promising moments delivered by Gutierrez, but at times these moments were shattered by his interestingly chosen mannerisms that did not seem appropriate for the character. I also don't understand what happened with the choices made here in terms of Javert's songs, I would very much like to ask VYVLECKA why she made the decisions she did here as well. Overall, I would recommend everyone that I know likes a great production to see Les Miserables. I often forgot this was a kids show.

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Review: This show was so incredible I went back a second time! Who knew a group of teenagers could both sing the difficult music AND bring the emotional depth required to make a production of Les Mis a success? The young actors playing the leads were all fantastic; it was almost unnatural that their voices were so strong and their characters so believable. Clearly Amy VYVLECKA, the director, and James Hernandez, the music director, brought out the best in these young people. Every detail of this production seemed well-rehearsed and well-thought out, from the big ensemble scenes to the amazing costumes by Laurie Everly-Klaussen (she clearly had a good time w/ the costumes for Madame Thenardier). I don't

normally go to "youth" productions when I don't know any of the performers, but I'm so glad I went to this one!

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