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Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical, American River College, Theatre Arts Department

Review: Wow! ARC has really worked hard! Good Job to the whole cast for putting together a really wonderful evening. I have to say that the highlight of my evening was being allowed to gaze upon such an energizing and ominous set. Great work on the set it was as much a character in the show as the cast was. I also appreciate the hard work that went into lighting such a "Dark" show. It takes a really knowledgeable and inspired mind to light a show, which takes place in the dark alleys of London, so well. The costumes were also a great highlight as they were elaborate and truly captured the mood of London in the Victorian era. The Ensemble was strong and captured the focus of the audience from the beginning of the show. The leads and supporting roles were professional and polished. There were stand out performances from Utterson, Simon and the lovely voiced Emma. I felt that Jekyll gave a good performance; he is defiantly a very talented singer but only adequate in acting skills. Lucy also gave an adequate performance but did not have the sparkle and power to own such a demanding role. I think ARC has stepped up to the plate and taken charge of this demanding show. BRAVO!!!

Review: Wonderful production! The orchestra, costumes, and sets were of professional calibre -- as were the performers. Especially the two lead actresses and the lead actor (BOTH Jekyll & Hyde - often simultaneously!!) Their voices were totally incredible. The supporting cast did an excellent job. I would highly recommend this production to anyone who wants to have a terrific experience while supporting ARCs Theatre Arts Department. Enjoy!
- Judie Marlowe, Citrus Heights

Review: Broadway Quality. Terrific work done on everything including the set. Naresh Michael is headed towards Broadway. Excellent job well done. Amanda Morish and Amanda Valli also did great jobs. I highly recommend this show.

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- Barbara Kellem

Review: Apparently I was watching another show. Jekyll was awful. There was no transformation between Jekyll and Hyde. He seemed to be out of his league when it came to the vocal requirements of such a demanding role. He was so very hard to watch and I did not believe for a second he was Hyde. Emma had a lovely voice but was missing something for me. Lucy lacked sex appeal but I think most of that had to do with her costumes and the lack of sexiness of such a popular lady of the evening. The Red Rat scenes were poorly done and lacked any sort of atmosphere. The ensemble looked most of the time as if they did not want to be there. The show lacked that Oomph that it needed! I enjoyed the board of governors as well as Sir Danvers and Utterson. The costumes and the set were amazing... I just wish the rest of the show could have lived up to their excellence.

Review: Jekyll and Hyde is a tough show pull off. Although there are a few memorable songs, the show itself is not particularly interesting. To do it successfully, you need an exceptional cast. Sadly for ARC, they didn't have one. Jekyll/Hyde was not at all convincing, especially as Hyde. Emma had a pleasant voice, but was very bland and not a compelling presence onstage. Lucy was the only actor that elicited any feelings from the people I was there with, but she didn't have the vocal chops to pull off such demanding songs. There were a couple of strong supporting characters, Utterson in particular... but overall, this was a really dull night of theater.

- Granite Bay

Review: Okay so there are some problems with the show. I think that it was a good effort. The three leads were okay but lacked star power. Emma has the strongest voice. The set and the costumes are excellent. The orchestra was truly awful. The supporting roles were the clear standouts in this production. Utterson was a clear standout and the guy in purple was great. This show is not the best production but I am a strong advocate to support all theater. This is a good night out and a must see.

Review: This is a very tough, demanding production. The quality of the actors and staging is what makes this show work. Otherwise, it is just one power ballad after another. But even more importantly, the show MUST have an incredible Jekyll/Hyde to even stand a chance of success. Unfortunately, this is where ARC initially falls short. The actor playing this role, did not have the voice, stature or acting chops to make him

believable in any way. Granted, an extremely challenging role. His voice, although with good pitch, did not come close to the power that is required. His stature was much too small, and certainly made his "murder" scenes (over much larger actors) completely unbelievable. His transformation to Hyde was very weak, and made further unbelievable by the lack of costume choices that could have helped a bit to present "Hyde". That said, I thought the costumes were outstanding in this show. But where was Hyde's Top Hat and Eerie Red Cape?? Secondly, the leading ladies were adequate, but not outstanding. I do give Amanda 'props' for at least bringing some passion to the role (which this show lacked overall), but of the numerous songs that Lucy sings, most were a disappointment. Emma had some good moments, but was overall inconsistent and fairly bland. Actually the "supporting actors" were the highlight of the show. Utterson, Danvers, Stride, and all of the board of Governors were quite believable. Finally, I thought the show lacked direction. There were many scenes that just didn't pull off the objective and intensity required. I think too much reliance on a FABULOUS set.

Review: I saw this last Saturday and we all enjoyed it. Naresh Michael had a very impressive singing voice, and his operatic experience really shone through, especially when he held the notes so long. As an actor, he is good, but not great. Amanda Valli had a lovely singing voice at all. Amanda Morish's voice was a mixed bag. Her chest voice was really good, but when she switched to head voice, that wasn't so good. She also lost the ends of her notes a lot and sometimes lost breath support. Her projection was really good though, as well as her acting. LOVED the costumes!! Those are worth the price of admission alone, along with the sets.

Review: I saw this show and I loved it. I thought the voices were incredible and far superior to anything but music circus. Amandas did well. BOTH OF THEM. I wanted their autographs but they were so mobbed with others seeking autographs i just gave up! GOOD show!
- jonathan

Review: The sets and costumes for this show were amazing and definitely some of the best that I have ever seen on a community theater stage. As far as the talent, I found the leads lacking any emotion when delivering their numbers. Jeekyll, Emma, and Lucy had such amazing solos throughout the show and while they sang every note in tune, the dynamics were missing, making their songs sound extremely flatlined and boring. There was no indication of love or passion in any of their songs. This show was ok, but I've seen and heard FAR better.

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