Before the Clock Strikes Midnight, Grab Your Tickets to Capistrano Valley Christian's "Cinderella"!
written by Emily Eufemio, a junior at Northwood High School

A victim of her step family's mistreatment, Ella still manages to uphold the definition of true kindness. Wanting to find herself and help her town, Ella escapes the clutches of her stepmother, going from rags to an enviably gorgeous ball gown with the single flick of a wand in this timeless classic.

During "In My Own Little Corner" Gavin Sharp's (Prince Topher) and Annalise Lomakin's (Ella) voices create a perfect harmonious blend to illustrate two sides of the same coin. As Sharp and Lomakin take opposite ends of the stage, they encapsulate the need to experience the world outside of their bubbles. Lomakin captures a longing for adventure as she dreamily softens her eyebrows, cups her hands close to her heart, and gazes doe-eye into the horizon.

Displaying bitter jealousy are the Ladies of the Court during "Stepsister's Lament." Their spiteful tone, accompanied with rolled eyes and envious flailing gestures, captures the feeling of a bruised ego when you are overlooked. The gestures vary from lady to lady creating an interesting and attention grabbing variety. The polar opposite stepsisters, Gabrielle (Ashley Johnson) and Charlotte (Stella von Waldburg) perfectly capture the comedic discord of the family. Returning from the ball, Waldburg stomps into the parlor, furrows her brow, and curls her lip, showing her disappointment. Meanwhile, Johnson slumps into the sofa, practically bouncing, a giddy tone encapsulating her voice as her lips curve into a smile, creating a soft roundness in her cheeks, affirming her as the more optimistic sister.

The melodic and operatic notes of Marie (Julia Lybarger) during "There's Music In You" spectacularly captures the audience. Lybarger's enchanting voice embraces everyone, inspiring them to believe in their own fairy godmother and transporting them into a world full of magic and wonder.

With 350 light, fog, and spot cues, lighting (Brayden Phernambucq and Owen Brandt) does a stunning job illuminating numerous sceneries and landscapes, from the dark evergreen woods to the lavish midnight blue of the Prince's ball and castle. The carriage ride transforms the entire room into a starry spectacle as lighting gobos were implemented to flawlessly project sparkles into the theater.

Collectively, CVC's "Cinderella" whisks us into "A Lovely Night" at the Prince's ball. The talented company truly delivers an unforgettable performance proving that things are never as "Impossible" as they seem.