

Walk, Run, and Tango to Irvine High School's "Chicago!" 3/3/2022

written by Alyssa Barr, a sophomore at Tesoro High School

After heartlessly murdering a man for petty reasons, Roxie Hart and her lawyer Billy Flynn use cunning tactics to achieve fame and prove Roxie's "innocence," all while Velma Kelly fumes with jealousy.

Velma (Sarah Adams) portrays a narcissistic and washed-up crime genius with a consistent angry and bitter tone of voice. During the number "Me and My Baby" in which Roxie enthralls the inmates with the news of her "pregnancy," Adams pouts, arms crossed, and expresses their envy regarding Roxie's announcement. Additionally, their vocals are clear and strong, blending nicely with Roxie's (Bethany Womack) while still distinguishable during the overlap in "My Own Best Friend."

Bearing a downcast and lonely demeanor, Standy Johnson as Amos Hart flawlessly displays a man with an insecure manner but still possessing an everlasting love for his unfaithful wife. "Mister Cellophane," a low-spirited song concerning Amos' desire to be perceived, appears touching and heart-rending by Johnson's mournful vocals and ability to emotionally portray and connect to the hopelessness of Amos. Inevitably from Johnson's character choices, Amos excels as a lovable character that wins everyone's heart.

The IHS Pit Orchestra adds a jaunty and foot-tapping feel to the production that a soundtrack would have lacked. This talented orchestra includes several instruments that synchronize seamlessly, while effortlessly accompanying each actor's vocals.

Lighting designed by Donald Osborn smoothly transitions the story along with the use of flashing lights and numerous colors emitted. Red is cast to match specific scenes to a dark and dangerous mood, white lights are used to depict Roxie's phony innocent persona in court, and blue lights are used during mournful moments. Osborn creatively utilizes flashing lights instead of gunshot sounds to create an engaging alternative when Roxie mercilessly shoots Fred Casely. Even with a few shadows during certain spotlights Osborn and the actors were able to work together onstage smoothly.

Not being permitted to use the color red in advertising, publicity leader Izzy Barbosa conveniently utilizes pink as a substitute. With a glamorous playbill and poster, Barbosa ultimately still captured the edgy and dangerous feel of the show without the use of red.

Irvine High School effectively proves the consequences of fame and the corruption of the 20s' criminal justice system with outstanding vocals, tech elements, and acting.

