

Puffs, or Two Increasingly Hilarious Hours at a Certain San Clemente High School  
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In A Certain School of Magic and Magic, there are the Brave, Smarts, Snakes, and... Well, the rest. They are commonly known as the Puffs, and San Clemente High School's Puffs follows the group through a not-at-all-dangerous-and-very-educational seven years of fantastical mishaps, talking bathrooms, and the extraordinary magic of the ordinary.

With a persistent scowl on her lips, Megan (Frankie Wengier) begins as the epitome of teenage angst. Distaste towards her fellow Puffs is evident through tight-lipped grimaces and crossed arms, yet as harsh yells of disdain slowly become cheers, her kindness beneath is unravelled. Wengier skillfully navigates this inner metamorphosis, and captures the essence of teenage complexity with unparalleled authenticity.

Skipping across the stage is J. Finch (William Lyon), whose childlike innocence and flamboyance radiate through vibrant smiles and twirls of his wand. He almost appears to float as he spins and frolics, with his widened eyes and animated expressions only adding to the character's playful, quirky charm.

Due to the small cast, most took up two or more roles, and Grace Nachreiner in particular stands out. As Blondo Malfoy, Nachreiner's snarls and wide-legged stances exude an air of egotistical superiority, but as Bippy, her high pitched voice and her comedic prances are sure to entertain.

From Hannah's bows to Sally's headband, the warmth of yellow permeates through detailed costume (Alexis Christensen). Individualized yellow accessories carry the overarching palette in a natural yet vibrant manner amongst the Puffs, and collectively, are consistent reminders of one of their defining core traits: Unity.

As students rush in and out from brightly colored curtains, painted cobblestone walls frame the story. The minimalistic yet dynamic set design (Nicole Grummer) is able to transform into varied backdrops ranging from classrooms to a lively 90s dance club, perfectly complementing the play's quick-paced, chaotic nature.

Amidst this fantastical chaos is props (Oliver Gifford), which bring the performance's magic to life. With blabbering sock puppets over shoulders and pop-up Beholders leaping out between notebook pages, props breathe whimsicality into the production, and make every scene an adventure in its own right.

With brilliant tech and acting, San Clemente's High School's rendition of Puffs is a charming tale that reminds everyone that they are the hero in their own story.