

Meet the World-famous Foundling (Not Moses) in EDHS's "Tom Jones"!
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Set in the mid-1700s, "Tom Jones" follows the story of a misunderstood foundling seeking love. However, Tom's questionable birth stands in the way of his relationship with the beautiful Sophia. After she runs off to London, Tom pursues her and meets a highwayman in need of a different job, an angry Irish man, and a woman who may know his parentage.

Blake Schalliol portrays the selfless Tom Jones with an innocent smile and devoted worship of Sophia. Whenever he sees Sophia, Schalliol professes his love and even drops to the floor to shower her with praise. While dining with a widow, he blissfully chomps away on bread and talks with a full mouth to illustrate his rough manners.

Sofia Candella exemplifies a young enamored noblewoman in her performance as Sophia Western. While conversing with Tom Jones, Candella flirts and throws herself into his arms. However, when faced with marrying Blifil, she rages with temper tantrums of pouting, sobbing, and ultimately running away.

As Thwackum and Square, Owen Switzer and Ella Smith develop a comical duo onstage with eyerolls and a mocking drawl directed towards their stingy employer. Switzer also excels as the Highwayman with high-pitched squeals and an uncertain stance in his repeated robbery attempts. Lying on his deathbed, Logan Love as Squire Allworthy dramatically declares his final will and complains of his aches and pains.

The Prop Team helps set the show's time period and develops the characters' personalities. With handkerchiefs, quills, and hand-stained papers, the Prop Team assists the minimalist set in creating the ambiance of the mid-1700s. Tom Jones uses the homemade bread to depict his country manners. Also, his sword allows him to convey his noble personality as he defends his honor in a duel.

The Costume Team provides a distinction between the nobility and the commoners with different styles of clothing. They adorn the nobles with floral patterns and pastel shades to represent their wealth. The many dresses of the women are festooned with ruffles and lace. Meanwhile, the rest of the cast wears suits and servant's garb with earthy tones.

With hilarious actors and creative technicians, El Dorado's "Tom Jones" explores the damaging stereotypes and prejudices that still exist today.