

Tesoro's Legally Blonde Is Seriously "What You Want" To See. 4/23/22

written by Christian McCleary, a junior at San Clemente High School

Tesoro's stunning rendition of "Legally Blonde" is wonderfully whipped into shape, as an ensemble of no-nonsense lawyers and energetic sorority sisters dance, sing, and style their way to the top of the class.

The story details the plot of a lovesick, bubbly Elle Woods (Natalia Vassilian) who has recently been dumped by her long-term boyfriend for her inability to be serious. To win him back, she enrolls in Harvard Law, but along the way learns to embrace her true self, discredits her dumb blonde stereotype, and finds love elsewhere.

Natalia Vassilian as Elle Woods, raising her vocal pitch and holding her head high, exposes her fun-loving and confident nature. Vassilian often squeals from excitement, effortlessly revealing her character's excitable nature. As she pursues her career in law, Vassilian makes clear the character's journey of self-discovery via genuine facial expressions of grief and happiness, but still staying true to her original character with energetic hand motions and a buttery belt.

Christina Mueller shines as Vivienne Kensington, a young and aspiring lawyer at Harvard. She makes her initial disgust with Elle Woods clear with ramrod posture, squinted eyes, and a furrowed brow as she perches on her stiletto heels. Mueller creates the perfect image of pretentious privilege, but when the stakes are raised, she expertly drops that facade to reveal her kindness towards Elle.

Heightening the comedy, Amanda Shea embodies the odd yet endearing Paulette. Stiff movements, wide eyes, and a heavy stance by Shea exaggerates the eccentric, off-beat personality of Paulette. She portrays the character's utter lack of social grace effortlessly, peaking when she accidentally punches her crush in the nose trying to win him over.

The incredible energy on stage was matched by backstage crews that made the show "So Much Better". Hair and makeup design by Molly Fineberg brilliantly aids in character development. Vivienne has a perfectly manicured bob and a neutral face of makeup accentuating her uptight and stuffy personality. Paulette's blue strands of hair and matching eye shadow exemplify her divergence from social norms.

Lighting design, expertly executed by TJ Downs, works to heighten the emotions on stage. When Elle feels threatened by the cut-throat Professor Callahan (Alex Lee), the stage shines red casting an ominous air over the actors.

The verdict is in: Tesoro's rendition of Legally Blonde is positively pink and perfect!