

St. Margaret's "Mamma Mia" ABBAolutely Proves The Winner Takes It All. 4/24/22

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"Mamma Mia" at St. Margaret's High is "Money Money Money", as glorious harmonies and energetic dancing will have you saying "Thank You for the Music."

The story follows a bright, energetic Sophie Sheridan (Maddie Bendzick) and her hard-working, single mother Donna (Olivia Ostlund). As Sophie approaches her wedding date, she plans to learn the identity of her father by inviting three men from her mother's past to the event. Chaos ensues as Donna relives past memories and manages the emotions she has forced down for so many years.

Olivia Ostlund commands the stage as Donna Sheridan. With subtle facial expressions and ramrod posture, Ostlund exudes strength and confidence throughout the theater. Ostlund's low tone of voice and precise movements genuinely exemplify her fierce independence, adding a charm to the character. Neela Gerayli as Rosie works well with Ostlund; their bond shines through in heartfelt conversations interspersed with playful one-liners. Gerayli's exaggerated facial expressions and flailing arms often send Ostlund into fits of laughter creating an authentic friendship between the two.

Rylan Rodrigues-Zahn embodies Harry, Donna's gentlemanly ex, employing a proper British accent and stiff limbs to expose his friendly, yet slightly awkward nature. Rodrigues-Zahn stands tall and speaks precisely revealing his character's polite demeanor. Yet, he also consistently maintains a wide grin and bright countenance showcasing his genuine urge to help his possible daughter, Sophie, masterfully.

Playing Tanya, Chloe Thompson brings Donna's suave, self-assured friend to life with the smooth vocal inflection and strut of a person comfortable with attention. With Thompson's slick arm movements and batting eyes, she nonchalantly endorses her cosmopolitan ideals to those around her. Thompson's sassy attitude is made clear by her well-timed quips about the dangers of marriage.

The commendable stage management of Emma Chang assures that the audience members can be "smiling, having fun, and feeling like a number one." Chang's perfect synchrony with actors on stage creates a seamless show that results in an entirely immersive and captivating experience. Technicolor lights begin to flash directly after Donna, Rosie, and Tanya strike sharp poses in their disco performance.

The contagious energy from the cast and crew of "Mamma Mia" at St. Margaret's ensures that everyone will be "having the time of their lives"!