

Lay All Your Love On Fountain Valley's "Mamma Mia!"  
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The words "I have a dream..." float through the quiet theater in a lilting voice, welcoming spectators to a rustic Greek Taverna, and the sequin and secret smattered wedding of young Sophie Sheridan. Sophie, determined to find her dad after years of anonymity, invites three potential fathers to her ceremony, but it's only a matter of time before the whole situation spins out of control. Fountain Valley performs this light-hearted, bubbly musical with commendable authenticity.

Bailey Curtis stuns as Donna Sheridan. Self-possessed, grounded, and graceful, Curtis portrays the leading lady with pizzazz and a healthy dose of sass, but also with a touch of weariness that adds crucial nuance to her character. Belting out powerful notes during "The Winner Takes It All", Curtis' voice is laden with the regrets, hopes, and faded dreams of a woman whose life has strayed from the plan. Paired with impressive breath control and contrasting dynamics, Curtis' performance is breathtaking.

The sets and scenic design, led by Rain Berg and Tyler Rose Bohle, are an invaluable component of the production. Cyan blue shutters lend themselves to both form and function, gifting the stage with a vibrant pop of color while adding a place for the ensemble to sing from that is visually engaging. Creamy white walls surround each window, bedecked with waterfalls of magenta flowers, and a scene of a jetty, hand painted by FVHS students, fills the left portion of the stage. It's whimsical and romantic, the perfect backdrop for the unconventional love story that occurs.

Lizzy Doan soars as Dance Captain. Taking on additional responsibilities as a student choreographer, Doan's handiwork particularly shines in the lift and tricks section of "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!". By creating a sequence of synchronized partner lifts, spins, high kicks, aerials, and the like, Doan is able to highlight each ensemble member's unique abilities and contribute to the broader spectacle of the show, an aspect that is essential to supporting the glitz and glamor of Mamma Mia!.

Logan English delivers a heartfelt performance as Sam Carmichael. Witty yet sincere, his comedic timing and robust baritone belt builds a strong presence on stage, particularly during "Knowing Me, Knowing You". Digging into the notes with both emotional and vocal intensity, English commands the stage.

Fountain Valley's cast and crew come together to deliver a performance of "Mamma Mia!" that has it all.