

Peter Pan at Portola High School: a timeless production that will never get old!
written by Reinina Zhang, a freshman at University High School

Center stage, an assuming brown chest suddenly opens and Tinkerbell (Maddie Miller) crawls out. With wide, curious eyes, careful steps, and quick turns of the head, she embodies the familiar fairy many remember. Showcasing the gifts of imagination and curiosity, Peter Pan is a tribute to the childlike wonder that is slowly lost as innocence wanes.

As wonderfully produced by Portola High School, the musical follows young Wendy Darling (Val Estrada) as she travels to Neverland with a boy named Peter Pan (Rory Miller) and experiences adventures that all children dream of.

Rory Miller, portraying Peter Pan, excellently shares Peter's carefree and self-boasting personality. In the song "I Gotta Crow," she sprints excitedly from one edge of the stage to the other, her eyes darting around so fast that they become a blur and her arms practically fluttering around her with hand gestures. Miller's clear voice seems to dance on stage itself, flowing in an almost tango-like step as it gracefully travels through different intonations and inflections to match Peter Pan's mood.

In "Tender Shepherd," Eliana Aguilar's soft, sweet, voice perfectly matches her character of young tip-toeing and shy-smiling Michael. Aguilar's voice drifts beautifully from note to note, weaving itself through the delicate yet brilliant harmonies onstage.

Leaning on one leg, Tinkerbell (Maddie Miller) sighs and rolls her eyes as Peter Pan sings in "Wendy". Miller crosses her arms with frustration and hilariously mocks Wendy (Val Estrada) behind her back with scrunched up faces and over-exaggerated frowns. The light hanging over Miller's head seems to bob in agreement, brightly nodding and shaking along. Tinkerbell's costume (designed and created by Kori Martinez, Ivan Bascos, Oksana Catiller, Carol Chiang, and Ashley Y. Ji) is essential in the production; whether by creating an interesting silhouette for Tinkerbell or allowing Miller to tug on her tulle sleeves with annoyance while looking at Wendy, the costume seems to speak for Tinkerbell in ways that she verbally cannot.

From swing to slide, the almost-eerie abandoned playground set of the Lost Boys (designed by Amy Shok, Evelyn Pak and Odin Bui) is perfectly chosen to represent how the Lost Boys refuse to leave childhood even though the children who were once around them have already done so.

Peter Pan, performed by Portola High School, displays amazing talent among its cast and crew to create a production that is sure to hook audiences!