

Hear ye! Hear ye! The shoe fits at Trabuco Hills' Cinderella. 4/28/22

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Cinderella is a musical retelling of the familiar fairytale by Charles Perrault. An orange pumpkin magically transforms into a golden carriage. Woodland creatures transfigure into coachmen. A kind-hearted bumpkin is noticed by a charming prince, despite her humble circumstance. With the help of her fairy godmother, Cinderella's dreams begin to materialize, but only until the impatient clock strikes midnight. Trabuco Hills High School's Cinderella unfolds the glittering wonder of this fairytale: the magic and triumph of kindness.

With her gentle vocal tone and wide-eyed gaze, Layla Triman portrays Ella with a certain air of delicacy and sweetness. Her meek hops of eagerness across the stage, and honey-like tone as she sings "In My Own Little Corner", build Ella's clear characterization. Ashlee Frost, who plays Marie, is both captivating and exemplary with her compelling vocal qualities and ethereal physicality. Frost transforms seamlessly from beggar woman Marie into a graceful enchantress. Her hunched-over waddle starkly contrasts with the confident strides of Ella's fairy godmother. Reaching her hands out with entrancing gestures, Frost portrays Marie's nurturing extension of guidance to Ella.

Lord Pinkleton (Sophie Darsch) and Sebastian (Joshua Ayers) work in tandem to provide hilarious comedic relief. Sebastian and Lord Pinkleton are the Lord Chancellor and Herald (respectively) of Prince Topher's royal kingdom. Joshua Ayers' haughty posture and conniving voice present Sebastian's deceptive nature. Darsch personifies Lord Pinkleton's subservience to Sebastian with furrowed eyebrows and obedient head nods. Her voice swells with pride and booms with importance as Darsch heartily proclaims "The shoe does not fit" after every subject tries on the glass slipper. This dynamic duo enhances the light-hearted quality of the show.

This production's technical elements accentuate the fairytale feel of Cinderella. Costumes, designed and executed by Avery Young and Lana Obeid, are craftily curated to each character. Madame (portrayed by the eccentric Elle Viefhaus) is the arrogant stepmother to Ella. With black fashion-forward silhouettes complete with striking red accents, Viefhaus' costumes match her character's arrogance and wickedness. Ella and Topher are fashioned in matching or coordinating color palettes, which allude to their compatibility and undeniable romance. Marie's light blue tulle overlay is intricate in its detail, layering, and silhouette. Blue often signifies wisdom and understanding, and this color choice complements Marie's mystique and characterization.

With beautiful technical elements and purposeful acting choices, Trabuco Hills' Cinderella is a truly dazzling production.