

Oh, the Places Irvine's Seussical Takes Us!

written by Sydney Gordon, a junior at Tesoro High School

Taking our childhoods from page to the stage, Irvine's Seussical weaves together a collection of stories from the Jungle of Nool to Whoville binding into one narrative of compassion, loyalty, and love. Whether it be an elephant finding the courage to stand, a child with an imagination no one understands, or a story that reminds us we are stronger hand in hand.

Mia Messer hobbles onto the stage as the awkward, literal "girl next door" Gertrude McFuzz. With a bold, resonant voice paired with hunched shoulders, turned-in knees poise, Messer brings to life the hopefulness and resilience of this one feather tailed bird. In the song "All For You", she showcases just how determined she is to help Horton, her own true love, gradually growing more frantic and charmingly unhinged as the number unfolds. This dedication is made all the more convincing as Will Walters captivates with his stunning vocals -- the embodiment of courage over compliancy as Horton. Despite being in a nest for the entirety of Act Two, Walters establishes Horton's unassuming heroism, magnifying the impact that the underdog can make a change for the better.

Flying in is Mayzie La Bird (Krishali Patel) who radiates pure diva. From swaying her hips to fluid, expressive arms, Patel masterfully embodies Mayzie's fabulous persona, especially during the number "Amazing Mayzie".

Monkeyin' around are the Whickersham Brothers, who stomp onto the stage with mischievous grins and boundless energy -- working together as a band of brothers tormenting Horton.

This show wouldn't be complete without the lighting team (Pablo Orozco, Joy Pelletier, George Yang, and Max Doran). Driving the vibrancy and cartoon-like atmosphere is a masterfully hand-built LED proscenium arch, perfectly timed and synchronized with the action on stage. The LED lights flash in a variety of colors, patterns, and sequences, providing both storytelling cues and stunning visuals—particularly in "The People Versus Horton the Elephant," where the Who's yell "We are here!" simultaneously as the court shouts "Boil!" in differing tempos. This dynamic visual storytelling works seamlessly with the costume design (Momo Becenti, Maddie Lam, and Rowan Mun), whose distinct colors and textures are enhanced under the lights and contribute to character and story alike—especially in the circus ensemble, with their carefully crafted stilts, and in Gertrude's sneakers, a playful departure from traditional character shoes.

Oh, the lights! Oh, the pizazz! Oh, the talent Irvine has!