

Tesoro's Footloose Kicks Off With High Energy and Heart
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Tesoro High School's production of Footloose explodes onto the stage with powerhouse vocals, sharp comedy, and technical precision. This classic tale of dancing against the odds finds fresh energy in a cast and crew firing on all cylinders.

Isaiah Medina as Ren delivers a tour de force performance, his soaring vocals anchoring the show's emotional peaks. His chemistry with Ariel, Addy Engelken, is electric—especially in the tender duet "Almost Paradise." Ariel matches him beat for beat, her phenomenal vocal control and nuanced portrayal making every scene compelling. Zacharia Alweheiby as Willard Hewitt steals nearly every scene, his southern accent never wavering even while singing, and his harmony work with Alex Santos (Bickle) and Addison Lim (Jeter) in "Mama Says" is both hilarious and vocally impressive.

The Reverend (Charlie Woffinden) and his wife, Vi (Sienna Sleichter), form the dramatic backbone. The Reverend delivers "On Any Sunday" with raw, aching vocals, while Vi shines in "Can You Find It in Your Heart," showing a woman desperate to hold her family together. Their scenes crackle with unspoken history—acting that elevates the show beyond simple rebellion.

Ariel's trio of friends—Ava Gange-Brown (Wendy Jo), Harper Nicholas (Rusty), and Aurora Biriba (Urleen)—is a comedic and vocal dream team. Rusty's powerhouse belt in "Holding Out for a Hero" stops the show, and their seamless harmonies in "Let's Hear It for the Boy" make the number a highlight. They also shine in quieter moments, reacting with character specific choices that prove supporting roles can be unforgettable.

Technically, the show dazzles from start to finish. Lighting designer Emily Palmer crafts 326 sliding cues and 122 spot cues, each executed with breathtaking speed and accuracy. Spot operators Ava Ochoa and Dane Manely never lose their targets, tracking actors with professional precision. The students built a rotating set (Caitlyn Willoughby, Titan Stagecraft) that features six main entryways that transform seamlessly between locations—from the church to the warehouse to Ren's home. The running crew, led by Samuel Ullman, moves every piece of the set in complete silence. No creaks, footsteps, visible crew members; the transitions are so invisible that the magic feels effortless. This level of coordination, especially given the complexity of a rotating stage with multiple entry points, is a testament to hours of disciplined behind-the-scenes rehearsal.

Tesoro's Footloose cuts loose with unstoppable talent and flawless craftsmanship, leaving the audience dancing in their seats.