

University's Dreamland is out of this world
written by Addy Engelken, a senior at Tesoro High School

A glittering welcome sign descends over the desert, evoking all of the glitz and mystique of the recently-declassified Area 51—or rather, Dreamland.

Four honor students competing for college tuition, a show choir rehearsing for the performance of a lifetime, and intergalactic aliens sixty-years sequestered in the Dreamland basement breathe new, vibrant life into Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with clear commitment to color and collaboration.

Eyes cast skyward, astronomer Aurora (Taylor Niedwick) stumbles onstage with endearing awkwardness. Though her voice shakes when speaking to a news reporter, her confidence blooms behind the lens of a telescope, or exploring the hangar halls with wannabe-weatherman Elliot Chambers (Aydean Eskandari). Niedwick's shy smiles shift into vibrant beams as Aurora earns the friendship of her peers.

The New Dawn show choir shines with stellar singing and sharp dancing. Each member fully commits to every jazz hand, tight harmony, and radiant beam. The choir performs artistic sign language, translated by Aissa Carvalho, with fluidity that conveys the nuance and emotion of their lyrics. Josh Sarkar and Rina Nelson as resident composer Scott and choreographer Quinn unite the group in rehearsal, shouting with authority to take the number from the top and squealing with glee over every successful runthrough.

The vibrant alien ensemble exemplifies the lasting joys of community, even after sixty years of entrapment. In "Until The Day," the intergalactic crew come together, longing for escape with every jazzy harmony and 1950s dance step. Their vibrant personalities are matched by the vibrant hair and makeup design by Shyli Slakmon. Each alien's face is uniquely contoured with colorful eyeshadow that is visible and otherworldly from the back of the house.

The UHS marketing and costume teams unite in colorful collaboration. Carol Li designs a warm-toned, stylized sunset for the New Dawn Logo, which the costume team impressively bedazzles onto the members' twelve jackets. Each meticulously-spaced sparkle ensures New Dawn's attire is as dazzling as their performance.

The aliens' spaceship launch is an awe-inspiring explosion of strobing rainbow light as the glittering spacecraft ascends into the night sky via the fly system. This spectacle is made possible by yet another instance of cross-department collaboration—the UHS Set, Lighting, and SFX crews, guided by stage manager Robin Krawczyk calling cues, achieve this intergalactic feat with sparkling synergy.

The commitment of the UHS company to color and collaboration make Dreamland an astronomical success.