

Warm Letters and Woven Relationships Enchant Mission Viejo's "Parfumerie"
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In Mission Viejo High School's charming holiday production of "Parfumerie," warm lights, handwritten letters, and a bustling perfume shop create a world brimming with warmth and gentle cheer. With its cozy store interior, the show settles into a nostalgic glow that perfectly frames the tangled relationships unfolding inside Hammerschmidt's shop.

The set itself becomes a character, lined with carefully placed boxes and bottles that make the store feel genuinely lived-in. With Stage Manager and Set Designer Fox Aguirre's keen eye, each counter and shelf allows actors to handle items naturally, creating a believable rhythm of workday life. Lighter costume tones by Lead Costume Designer Madison Quirk tie the Parfumerie Employee Ensemble together visually, while lighting cues are expertly timed by Mark Rainey to become a silent storyteller. When the lights are off, the story takes a much darker tone, and each morning the lights reignite the warmth of the shop for customers.

Loved by all, Tristan Fordham portrays Miklos Hammerschmidt with a grounded physicality and a consistent limp that truly displays his authority. His emotional clarity throughout the show ensures that, although he is in charge of the Parfumerie, he is still as vulnerable a person as any other, leading audiences to feel sympathetic for his character and become attached to his story.

Providing some of the production's most memorable comedic moments, Ryan Proud's Mr. Sipos becomes an embodiment of the audience's inner voice. Proud's comedic timing and charming sarcasm perfectly portray what audiences are wondering in the moment. Whether crawling on the ground to overhear an intimate conversation or eagerly wanting to ask someone about their romantic life, Proud's physical comedy gives audience members uncontrollable grins.

Liam O'Rourke delivers an incredible performance as George Horvath. His character's charming attitude makes his spiraling troubles both entertaining and heartfelt. Every scene is crafted with a balance of emotional weight and humor. In one clever moment, O'Rourke improvised by offering a customer a whiff of perfume rather than spraying it, seamlessly adapting to the bottle's suddenly broken top while staying perfectly in character. His scenes with Mr. Sipos are especially filled with energy as the duo's interactions are sharp, dynamic, and enjoyable to watch.

Blending gentle humor, rich character work, and a delightfully handcrafted atmosphere, Mission Viejo High School's "Parfumerie" offers a heartwarming holiday story for everyone to enjoy.