

Drama and Intrigue: Fountain Valley High School Reveals the Secrets of Stardom in the 1920's
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Red lights illuminate the darkened cells of Chicago's female inmates, revealing shadowy silhouettes poised behind bars. At the center of it all, Roxie Hart struts into prison after murdering a man, anxious to achieve stardom while clearing her name. She tramples over fellow convicts and her own husband to remain on the front page, grasping for the limelight in desperation.

Hiding cutthroat schemes behind a sultry smile, Roxie (Annalena Jacobs) twirls and twists across the stage. Her voice carries clear and consistent, delving into the desires of the aspiring singer. Melodramatically clutching her chest, Jacobs appeals to flashy reporters with innocent expressions and wide-eyed sorrow. When the cameras are away, she switches into a cold, ruthless diva, ignoring inmate Velma Kelly (Bailey Curtis) despite her pleas for help. Curtis desperately attempts to win Jacobs over, employing powerful dancing and strong vocals in each scene. Each movement is deliberate and fluid as she sashays into the room.

Billy Flynn (Andrew Pham) croons promises of fame and freedom to Jacobs and Curtis, projecting clearly as he saunters around the stage. His grins and encouraging nods hide the calculating motives behind his practices, leeching money from his clients under kind pretenses.

Featured dancer Endika del Rio displays strong, energetic moves throughout each song he is in, performing a dizzying array of backflips in "Cell Block Tango". Stumbling back from the pushes and pulls of the female inmates, he encapsulates the careless husband of the infuriated women, struck down in various ways.

Throughout the show, moving lights cascade color onto the performers, washing them in various shades to highlight the mood of the scene. Designed by Willow Heustis, Kyle Smith, and Ryan McBride, the sharp contrast of the bright white courtroom and the deep red prison elevate the differing undertones.

Sophia Pedersen and Katie Bell stepped to the challenge of designing hair and makeup for the performance. Pedersen paints bright red lipstick on Jacobs while Bell styles a blonde, curly wig to create Roxie Hart's fashionable appearance. After four hours of makeup for the entire cast, the finished product emboldens the atmosphere of the roaring 20's.

In this dramatic and cunning performance of Chicago: Teen Edition, Fountain Valley High School Theatre turns back time to the star of a murder case in the early twentieth century.