

It is Time to See Mater Dei's "A Wrinkle in Time"

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"A Wrinkle in Time" follows Meg Murry, an anxious teenager whose father mysteriously went missing. In her attempt to find him, she is aided by three mystical beings who transport her, her brother Charles Wallace, and her classmate Calvin throughout space. While this story is filled with clairvoyant characters, friendly beasts, and creepy Camazotzians, it also tells of an unlikely group finding friendship and learning to accept their faults along the way.

Exuding confidence, Reid Velasquez masterfully commands the stage as Red Eyes. His mischievous, all-knowing smile paired with his direct and powerful diction creates a dominating presence that is felt all around. Like his character, Velasquez stays perfectly disciplined through upright posture and deliberate hand gestures that only ever intentionally falter when Charles Wallace breaks free from his control.

Through a sarcastic tone and a no-nonsense attitude, Lily Hirsch as Meg skillfully portrays the quintessential stressed-out teenager. With her head-in-hands and quick, frantic movements, Hirsch depicts Meg's frustration for her current situation and her anxiety to change it. Hirsch also expertly displays Meg's progression from a fearful teen to a self-assured heroine. Her stance completely changes from stooped shoulders as if she wants to hide away to a proud chest and a strong pose by the end of the play.

Lighting, designed by Dagny Canzoneri and Kathleen Khorn, is inspired, captivating the ethereal landscapes of space. For instance, while Meg and her friends travel the universe, flickering stars light up the background immersing the characters in a celestial sky. Furthermore, during scenes with Red Eyes, the pulsing red lights keep time to the ticking of a clock which establishes an ominous and disturbing atmosphere.

As makeup designers, Kemper Rodi and Riley Lewis stay true to each character while also further developing each individual identity. With minimal makeup and rosy undertones, Meg's natural beauty shines through on stage, depicting her tomboy, relaxed style. Rodi and Lewis also coordinate with costumes (Emma Buchanan and Cassie Butscher) as Red Eyes's black suit contrasts his deep red blush, accentuating his eyes which make him even more otherworldly.

Through committed acting and thoughtful artistic design, Mater Dei's production excellently creates a night filled with both empathy and introspection.