

Adventure "Under The Sea" To MDHS's Alluringly Aquatic "Little Mermaid"
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This beloved classic Disney "tail" follows Ariel and her fascination with the human world. On one of her forbidden visits to the surface, she falls in love with Prince Eric and makes a dangerous deal with the sea witch Ursula for the chance to become human for three days.

Briel Jim grippingly encapsulates Ariel's innocent curiosity and wonder with a clear, poignant singing voice, gallivanting around the stage gracefully with her arms outstretched as she explores the human world in "Beyond My Wildest Dreams." Even after Ariel loses her voice, Jim powerfully portrays Ariel's emotional arc through heartfelt, genuine smiles and nervous physicality as she adjusts to land above water.

Shyler Satina as Sebastian hilariously characterizes Sebastian's pompous attitude and perpetual anxiety. When he interrupts King Triton (Noah Jalmasco) reprimanding Ariel, Satina puffs his chest and lifts his chin to convincingly communicate his hurt pride. His frantic expressions, nervous pacing, and clever rhythmic choices in his Caribbean accent masterfully highlight his comedic side with Ariel's impulsiveness and defiance.

During "Poor Unfortunate Souls," Scarlett Mattison menacingly commands the stage with hypnotic poise, calculated gestures, and malevolent laughter, her velvety and resonant voice radiating temptation and authority. As she paces around Ariel with a deliberate grace, her sultry movements skillfully amplify her predatory and sinister charm, especially when juxtaposed with her endearing nicknames for Ariel.

With over 450 lighting cues, the lighting design effectively reinforces the atmosphere and emotions of each scene. During the sea storm, different colors flash around the stage, conveying the sailors' panic as their ship sinks. Later, in "If Only," the lighting design cleverly differentiates between the four separate settings and individual desires of Ariel, Prince Eric, Sebastian, and King Triton. The underwater settings are bathed in vivid, colorful light while the land settings feature more natural lighting. However, a soft pink glow illuminates Ariel's room to successfully convey her hope and love.

Finally, the hair and makeup designs impressively emphasize the unique aquatic characters using fourteen wigs and over fifty makeup looks. Ursula's hair and makeup stood out, with a grey base, purple contour, redrawn brows, a mole, and an intentionally messy purple wig. Each detail strikingly captures her villainous and bold personality, enhancing her dramatic nature.

Swim down to see MDHS's "Little Mermaid"! It will be beyond your wildest dreams!