

San Juan Hills' Pride and Prejudice- A Proper Good Time!

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San Juan Hill's emotive rendition of *Pride and Prejudice* expertly portrays a classic story of powerful societal expectations and their influence upon the wealthy elite.

Set in late-1800s England, the Bennet family must find suitors for their three daughters to keep their large estate in the family. Their upscale lifestyle is thrown into chaos when a lavishly wealthy new neighbor and his dashing friend enter the picture. What follows is a humorous tale of conflict between society's strict bounds and the love that dares to subvert them.

Elizabeth Bennet (Alaina Arbiso) stands out among the sisterly trio as she walks the fine line between her proper upbringing and strong individuality flawlessly. She strides purposefully with a distinct grace as she delivers clever, sarcastic remarks often aimed at her enemy-turned-lover Mr. Darcy (Ewan Herd).

Herd encapsulates the cold, arrogant air of Mr. Darcy through his dry tone and stoic stance. He maintains perfect posture in his stiff pose throughout the show, only deviating at the end to show his change of heart towards Elizabeth with a sweet embrace that makes for a lovely stage picture.

Lydia Bennet (Sophia White), the youngest Bennet, skips and twirls across the stage as she swoons over men in uniform. Her sassy vocal inflections stress her naive and plucky nature, which is further accentuated by her fluttery physicality.

All technical elements of the show blend seamlessly for an inviting ambience that immerses the audience. Attention to detail in the costume department, headed by CJ Verrengia & Leilani Obana, is especially notable given the use of colors, finery, and accessories to signify character traits and status. Elizabeth's understated dresses in green and purple set her apart from the other refined, hoity-toity characters, while Lady Catherine De Bourgh's (Kassandra Georgi) extravagant violet gown and Miss Bingley's (Andrea Nalbandian) sparkly jewels showcase their snooty affluence. The atmosphere is further enhanced by audio heads Aisah Flores' and Bella Gordon's sound effects, e.g. a rooster to signify morning, and the programming of flickering sconces and chandelier by lighting designer Taylor Needleman. Headed by Kathleen Coppola and Jason Crout, deck crew executes each set change in costume, creating smooth transitions between scenes so the enveloping realism endures.

San Juan Hills welcomes audiences back to live theatre with a hilarious, heartwarming production they should take serious pride in!