

University High's "Evita" Has a Touch of Star Quality
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Following the life of beloved actress Eva Perón, "Evita" delves into Perón's early life and motivations on her journey to become Argentina's first lady in the 1940s. Narrated by Che, a scornful observer of Eva's life and her crushing of Argentina on her way to the top with Juan Perón (Frankie Ochoa).

Blasting through doors and striding onstage, Che (Conrad Mai) breathes life into Buenos Aires. Animatedly mocking the aristocrats and guards of Buenos Aires during "Perón's Latest Flame", Mai's confidence and fluidity seamlessly exemplifies his boldness in standing against the Peróns. Mai's voice shines during "And The Money Kept Rolling In" while standing atop a crate with many listening into his oppositional words against the Peróns. Mai's excellent physicality and vocal control elevates the show.

Belting her wants and dreams for the enchanting Buenos Aires, Rina Nelson's Evita Perón is full of youthful life and energy. Nelson's stark innocence is contrasted against the aging and grown Eva Perón (Arpi Gharadagian) whose stiff movements and dark expressions highlight the light airiness in Nelson's performance. While Nelson gallivants around the stage, Gharadagian's portrayal demonstrates the harshness of life and politics, allowing a deeper insight into Eva's change and growth. Nelson and Gharadagian work off each other with ease to create two distinct versions of the same person.

With dozens of quick changes and countless styles, Uni Costumes Crew unifies the show through incredible costumes. The period accurate acquisition of general uniforms reinforces the 1940s aura surrounding the stage. At the beginning of the show, Evita's costumes are full of color, representing her full of energy though color is continually stripped until she resides in all white for the second act representing her waning energy and life. The Uni Costumes Crew's ability to illustrate a character's personality enhances the performance.

Precise transitions and well executed fly rails produce a smooth flow. Calm and quick, the Uni Running Crew work multiple scene changes, whether bringing on a bed and vanity or flying the on-air sign in and out. After working on the timing of flying different pieces in and out at once, the Uni Running Crew's quick effort supplies a quick transition where set pieces feel as though they suddenly appeared.

Stunning technical elements unite incredible acting together to create a masterpiece. University High's "Evita" is a sight to see.