

Beckman Students are Home in Disney's Beauty and the Beast

written by Liam Hallinan, a sophomore at San Clemente High School

Beckman's Beauty and the Beast is a ravishing new take on the classic Disney fairytale, combining uniquely crafted, creative elements that enhance the production. Belle, an imaginative young teen, is viewed as odd in her city. Her father, a persistent inventor, inspires her to reach for her dreams. After many harrowing events, Belle takes the place of her father as a prisoner in a castle run by a hideous beast, only later to discover he is a prince under a curse. Beckman students adeptly execute this story via a multitude of different creative aspects.

Belle, played by Bella Kelso, portrays a fresh new take on a classic character. Kelso expertly interacts with her fellow castmates and truly connects with her father, Maurice (Tristan Wani) and the Beast (Ryan Wright), while fiercely resenting Gaston (Gordon Peng). Equipped with a powerful voice, Kelso skillfully tackles challenging songs, all the while gliding across the stage.

Ryan Wright, who plays the Beast, modernizes his role with impeccable comedic timing. Wright uses the set pieces to his advantage and masterfully moves about the stage. He exhibits a true balance between the anger of a beast and the sweet sided nature of the prince trapped inside of him. Wright delivers a stunning performance in his first production.

Mrs. Potts, played by Christina Kellogg, exemplifies the good role model and influence the teapot has on her master and the other enchanted objects. She demonstrates her flawless ability to reach high notes with ease. Overall, Kellogg delivers a charming representation of her character.

Ryan Puterbaugh revamps the role of Lumiere into a lively, contemporary character that charms his fellow castmates and the audience. Puterbaugh lights up the stage with his exuberant energy and charisma. His impeccable comedic skills and phrasing form an astonishingly detailed and memorable performance.

The stage management team, comprising of Aricia Hwang and Grace Soliman, accomplish their duties with grace and style. They masterfully call the lightning, sound, and set cues, all of which are executed with impressive timing. Hwang and Soliman are also in charge of the production's Remind system, which sends messages to the cast and crew. Overall, the stage managers excellently orchestrate a beautiful, well-organized production.

Altogether, Beckman High School arts students combine to deliver a stunning production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast.