

Rambunctious Revolt at Capo Valley's "Matilda"

written by Sage Lamott, a senior at University High School. March 31, 2022

Stomping feet, storytelling, style and a certain sarcasm accompany Capo Valley's telling of Matilda. Following the sorrowful life of young Matilda, a journey packed with twists and turns, quests for truth, and chocolate cakes takes place. Capo's Matilda shines with spunk and skill.

An innocent posture and wobbled knees contrast with a naughty smirk as Bella Cherney as Matilda storms the stage. Mischievously grinning, she juxtaposes a sweet accent and wide eyes. Lamenting her woe and how to act on it, she soars in the number "Naughty". Cherney successfully portrays the gifted girl.

Sass in her hip and gaudy vocal choices paint the mother figure of Mrs. Wormwood (Isabelle Le). She strikes a pose and suavely swings about with Rodolpho (Dylan Kalaie) in the number "Loud". From her toes to her exaggerated blonde head, she utilizes movement to convey her over-the-top nature and sense of superiority. Le is accompanied by the kooky Mr. Wormwood portrayed by Mason Gulline. Floundering about with bombastic hand gesturing, Gulline captivates. Le and Gulline comedically combine amplified physicalization and clever comedic timing to craft colorful and boisterous portrayals.

Smooth like a cup of tea with honey is the voice of Maiya Stigall as the loving and soft Miss Honey. Angelically lamenting her past in "My House" she engages with power while maintaining her signature shy smile. In a sharp contrast to Stigall's unique softness, Nicole Isaac as Trunchbull snorts and scoffs. Adopting a low vocal tone and furrowing her all-too famous unibrow she details her previous accomplishment in "Hammer". Calculated character choice is creatively utilized by both performers to establish their personas.

An almost dystopian slide sits askew as a wooden seesaw teeters back and forth. Set design by Ella Mayer and Isabella Omnus utilizes childlike wonder to tell a story with a dark twist. Color motifs contrast with aging and the occasional torture gate. Book set pieces serve as a variety of set pieces, furniture, beds and benches. Dynamic choices made by the team allow the set to be functional and fun.

From flashy pants, florals and the frump of Trunchbull, costume design by Hannah Kirby and Arbel Ben-Abraham ties into the theme of subtle exaggeration. Pants adorned in pattern are found on Mrs. Wormwood, accompanied by a flamboyant top, uniquely highlighting her inner dance enthusiast.

Capo Valley's Matilda boasts talent, tactic and a twinkling of wonder.