

Irvine High School's Freaky Friday is Fantastic

written by Ashley Shin, a junior at Sunny Hills High School

Based on the 1972 book by Mary Rodgers and its 1976 and 2003 film adaptations, "Freaky Friday" describes the heartwarming story of a mother and daughter rebuilding their bond after switching bodies with one another. After an argument, the two girls realize that they are inside each other's bodies and must find a way out.

Belting her heart away, Sara Moinuddin (Katherine) sings with raw emotion. She carries a poised posture and effortlessly transitions into Ellie as her mannerism and tone changes. From a composed and well-organized woman to a frantic teen, Moinuddin showcases her broad acting range. Her skills go far beyond high school standards and commands the stage with confidence.

Sassing her way through the show, Beth Motta portrays Ellie wonderfully. Her slouched stature and eyerolls terrifically portray the young rebellious teen. She displays her singing abilities wonderfully in numbers such as *Oh, Biology* and *Just One Day* by belting musical notes amazingly. Motta's flexibility between embodying Ellie and Katherine displays her outstanding capabilities as a performer.

Adding a comedic tone to the show, Lily Matthey playfully manifests Fletcher. Her soprano voice adds to the young prepubescent boys' character while singing. The ventriloquism exhibited throughout Matthey's performance notably contributes comedy to the musical. Matthey's carefree moves heavily embody the obliviousness children possess throughout childhood.

The technical aspects of this show also help transform this production into reality. The hair and makeup team brilliantly utilized their skills, specifically on Matthew's transformation from female to male, to help capture the modern time era. Also, the lighting cues to match with certain scenes heavily adds to the show. By employing pink lights to establish a dream like scenario contrasting to blue lights to exhibit internal thoughts, the mood of the scenes comes full circle.

Through the wonderful acting and amazing tech elements spread throughout the show, *Freaky Friday* at Irvine High School leaves a fabulous impact filled with joyful emotions.