

Fullerton Union's "Matilda the Musical" is Anything but Revolting

written by Bella Gordon, a senior at San Juan Hills High School. March 12, 2022

"Matilda the Musical" follows Matilda Wormwood, a young girl who has an extraordinary fondness for reading and mathematics, as she faces and overcomes numerous obstacles created by her neglectful family and the malevolent principal, Agatha Trunchbull, at her new school.

As Matilda, Emma Hill charmingly captures the childlike joys and woes of her character. Hill utilizes exaggerated arm motions and ebullient facial expressions when sharing her stories with Mrs. Phelps (Sarah Kelekoma), shifting into a sorrowful expression and voice while confronting the reality of her life.

Nathaniel Baesel plays the vile Agatha Trunchbull with a domineering presence, menacingly leaning over and looking down upon the children and happily knocking down rows of students if one speaks out of line. Portraying Mrs. Wormwood, Matilda's mother, Scarlet Marengo juxtaposes her joyous, comedic salsa dancing with partner Rudolpho (Jonah Blake) with her judgmental eye rolls and mocking tone when interacting with her family.

Charlotte Krammer as the Doctor is humorous as she blithely sings about the miracle of children, ignoring Mrs. Wormwood's zealous screaming and throwing of objects as she gives birth.

Despite their amusing hijinks being distracting at times, the School Children are active and fully engaged in all scenes they are in. Whenever Miss Trunchbull approaches or threatens to punish someone, the children frantically scream and wail in fear.

The set (FUHS Technical Theatre) and special effects team (Cynthia Montiel-Cruz, Destinee Beltran, FUHS Technical Theatre) collaborate to effectively establish location via moving units and various projections. The classroom in the school is filled with rolling desks while a chalkboard is projected onto the back wall, precisely emulating an actual classroom.

Lighting (David Block, Micah Plick, FUHS Technical Theatre) develops the mood of scenes through specific choices of color and visual effects. When the children first approach the school, red lights flash on either side of them while a stark white downlight shines on them, embodying their terror.

The costumes (Scarlet Marengo, Yae Eun Han, Sailor Marengo, Sherlyn Acosta) successfully depict the varying personalities of characters. While the children are stuck in dull navy blue and gray uniforms, the sweet Miss Honey (Mollie Holbrook) dons a floral dress and pastel pink jacket, visualizing her caring nature.

Through dynamic acting and imaginative technical designs, Fullerton Union produces a

rendition of "Matilda the Musical" that captivatingly explores how we have the power to change our own fates.