

Ardently Admiring and Loving Mater Dei's "Pride and Prejudice"
written by Ksenia Minina, a sophomore at University High School

"Pride and Prejudice" follows the tale of the Bennet family as a new bachelor comes into the neighborhood. Despite romance ensuing, tension also blooms, as Mr. Darcy grows fond of Elizabeth Bennet, who abhors his pride and conceit. Mater Dei High School's "Pride and Prejudice" wonderfully demonstrates the consequences of one's actions and biases in a hopeful and lighthearted show.

Bella De Libro as Elizabeth Bennet beautifully encapsulates the emotional subtleties of a well-bred Englishwoman while retaining her character's passionate nature. Her clear, even tone incorporates a cold disdain towards Antonio Perez as Mr. Darcy, whenever she talks with him at Neverfield, is paired with her much more open emotion when she is in the privacy of her home.

Through his exaggerated tone and physicality, Johannes Zarate comically portrays Mr. Collins's absurdity. As he is proposing to Elizabeth, he starts speaking in a loud, quick, and pompous voice even as she keeps scooting away from him on the bench. However, he persists, raising his pompous voice to accentuate his phrase whenever he scoots closer to her again.

Audrey Hirsch excellently demonstrates Miss Bingley's stuck up nature through her tone and facial expressions. As she observes the Netherfield ball from a distance, she wrinkles her nose, curls her upper lip, and sticks out her chin, adding an air of disdain and stuck-up propriety into her every interaction.

Sound Design by Norman Nguyen meticulously accentuates the Regency atmosphere of the show. From choosing period appropriate pieces for the ball, and even switching from the upbeat strings to a piano-leading accompaniment during Elizabeth and Darcy's dance, to adding small audible touches throughout the production, such as the chirping of birds when the characters come outside, the sound adds an immersive depth to the show.

The Lighting Designers Scarlett Mattison and Eoin Kerr splendidly add meaningful lighting details throughout the production. When Darcy is proposing to Elizabeth outside, for the first time the background light is bright green while the overhead lights are white. However, as Elizabeth utters her final words of rejection, the overhead lights turn red, casting the two of them in an angry glow.

With heart, spirit, and pride, the cast and crew of "Pride and Prejudice" at Mater Dei High School encapsulate a beautiful tale of love and consequences onstage.