

St. Margaret's Flies High in its Poppin' Production of "Mary Poppins"!  
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Every child needs guidance, but how long till they are grown enough to tell right and wrong for themselves? A whimsical and vivacious storytelling of "Mary Poppins" explores this question by following the journey of a nanny as she guides two children and their parents through the magical side of life.

Maddie Bendzick (Mary Poppins) embodies this classic character in every way as she enters the lives of the Banks family. The use of her nostalgic coat and hat, paired with her poised yet quirky personality makes for the spitting image of the nanny many know and love. Her upright posture, level tempered personality and beautiful voice allow her to teach and withstand the mischievous Michael (Mac Ullem) and Jane (Saba Farjami). On the other hand, Bendzick expresses a more playful and whimsical side of her character by lighting up the stage as she interacts with old friends who are equally as magical.

Alden Copps (Bert) charms the audience with his infectious energy and well executed cockney accent. Confidently striding across stage and enthusiastically interacting with Poppins, Copps highlights the bond between these two characters. With constant soot on his face, a multitude of occupations and a free spirit; the chimney sweep is a friend to all. Copps very successfully provides this lighthearted atmosphere to the audience.

Creating an unforgettable beat on stage, the Chimney Sweep ensemble joins Bert and Poppins for a tap dancing number. The ensemble actors' execution of "Step in Time" and "Down the Chimney" is passionate and brings a shared sense of joy as every ensemble member plays their part with a smile.

The hair and makeup for this show, done by Kate D'Amato, Luciana Varkevisser and Kaylynn Yang, adds to each and every character that appears on stage. A special mention must be given to the handmade yarn wigs worn by the fantastical Statues ensemble and Toys ensembles. These handmade wigs add a special childlike touch to these scenes. Another pleasant touch is the sixties makeup and hair worn by the actors to play homage to the classic sixties film of "Mary Poppins."

Through earnest emotion, beautiful voices and complex performances in this production of "Mary Poppins," as told by the cast and crew of St. Margaret's Episcopal School, brings to light the importance of having fun while also knowing right from wrong.