

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS

Friendswood High School
Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical
Adjudication Date: 2/2/20

Leading Actress 1

Matilda

The actress had an obvious understanding of the characters objectives and uses appropriate tactics. She grew in strength and confidence as the show progressed. She made consistent choices that worked with the context of the story and she worked well with every character and with all the children. She listened and responded, and was especially fun within her silly family unit. When singing, she was still in character and really reached out to the audience. She moved well and kept her youthful character at all times/. She has excellent dance technique. She had excellent diction and spoke clearly and with confidence. Pitch and tone were good and she sang well with the orchestra. She was fun to watch on stage.

Taylor was very convincing in her role of Matilda. She used her accent and body movements to make her acting come alive. She has a nice voice and good acting skills. Good job young lady. Strong overall execution of character choices. Strong presence on stage and physical performance executed. Look to develop body and characteristics which reflect the youth of a 5 yr.old with super intelligence. How can you further develop character growth, change and range throughout the storytelling. Wonderful vocal quality and solid breath control in songs.

Leading Actress 2

Miss Honey

This actress portrayed the character Miss Honey and did an excellent job. She was an excellent singer and continued to act when singing or moving. She had a strong connection with Matilda. She showed strong character growth. She was consistent in listening and responding on stage. She was very purposeful in her movements, She had excellent diction and her vocalizations seemed to be suitable for her character. She seemed pretty confident and portrayed her character through her performance. Anna has a beautiful voice but it is a bit breathy. She played her role of Miss Honey lovingly and with just the right touch of facial expressions for humor. Strong and consistent physical and relationship choices on stage. Minor pitch, tone and breath control issues in songs.

Leading Actor 1

Miss Trunchbull

Having a big, hulky guy portray Miss Trunchbull was a genuinely great idea. The actor was so convincing and so confident. He was a joy to watch every minute of the show. He was so committed to the role. He used wonderful choices for tactics throughout the show. All choices worked with the story and the characters development. He was 100% acting while singing and dancing/moving. Some of the crazy movements and poses were so original and he kept those

postures and vocalizations throughout. He was an acrobat, a clown, and a stunt man all rolled up into one. Excellent singer and sang as a woman, facials as a woman, dress and posture as a woman, Exciting to watch on stage and the focus of attention 100% of time
Eric was just plain wonderful in his role as Miss Trunchbull. His body movement, facial expressions, and acting were perfect for this part. He had that evil woman down pat. If he had yelled at me, I would have been afraid. What a great job. Wonderful character development with strong vocal choices, physical characterization and comedic timing. Dynamic hand gestures and facial expressions. Strong execution of dance movements and athleticism in choreography.

Leading Actor 2

Mr. Wormwood

Mr Wormwood stole the show quite often with his funny posture and silly faces which he maintained throughout. So confident in telling the story and in singing and in dancing. He apparently worked hard to develop his character and to work well in ensemble with his Wormwood family. Always focused and always purposeful. Very good physical performer and his energy level was off the chart. Great diction and pitch and tone. Vocalizations really fit the character. Great physical control and had a strong connection between his actions and his body movements and posture Exciting to watch on stage. He was super confident and focused on the show while he was the focus of many favorite scenes.

Thomas played Mr. Wormwood well with his body slump and facial expressions. This young man could be a stand--up comic. The opening of the second act was great. He was always in character. Strong vocal choices and well executed accent and physical characterization. Actor consistently executed vocal and physical choices in choreography and songs. Exhibited character growth and range along with strong improvisational skills.

Supporting Actress 1

Mrs. Phelps

This character showed good evidence of character growth. She made good choices to fit the context of the story in her role. She was good at listening and reacting to Matilda with whom she shared her scenes. She had a good singing voice but did not have much choreography. Her vocalizations were suitable for her character, Mrs. Phelps. She was interesting to watch, but needed to have more depth and dimensions to her character. Her pitch and tone were above average. She had a lovely stage presence and calmness. Her accent was very good. She needed to be a bit more adult sounding. Consistent physical presence on stage. Work to actively listen and respond honestly to others in scenes. Work to develop range in vocal variety.

Supporting Actress 2

Acrobat

The acrobat was a lovely character to watch onstage. Her aerial work was beautiful. She was confident and created very nice lines with her body. Her movements were soft, yet strong. Her connections to other characters was good. She made good choices for her character during her scenes. Good body control and movement choices. During her scenes she really stood out. She was fun to watch onstage. Sadie did a nice job in this small part. She must have a dance background and it shows. Strong presence on stage.

Supporting Actor 1

Bruce

The character Bruce was fun to watch. His growth and obstacles during the show were handled with obvious understanding. He made strong acting choices and showed growth and change as the show progressed. He made purposeful movements and was quite convincing. He connected with the other students/actors. His pitch and tone were above average. He was successful in being the focus of attention during the right moments. He seemed very confident. Dechlan seemed to know how to make a small part into a big one. His number at the end of the first act was hilarious. He had great facial expressions. Wonderful facial expression, vocal choices and comedic timing. Strong dancer. Great execution of choreography.

Supporting Actor 2

Rudolpho

Really connected with the audience. He was consistently funny in his characterization and he had a definitive posture, consistent stage movement and love for Mrs. Wormwood went deep. He made excellent movement choices and was a good singer. He made strong acting choices and worked well with the others in his scenes. His dance technique was comedic but very strong. He was very fun to watch on stage. Dean carried out his role of Rudolpho with panache. He showed flexibility and an ability for comedy. Strong physical and comedic choices on stage. Look for range, change of tactics and growth of character.

Featured Performer

Mrs. Wormwood

From the moment the show opened, we were captivated by the character of Mrs. Wormwood. Great comedic voice and stage movement. Overwhelmingly funny in every scene. She understood her characters objectives and obstacles. She made strong consistent acting choices in her hospital scene and at the Wormwood home with Mr W, Matilda, the son and Rudolfo. The connection between her and Rudolfo was hilarious and so loving. She made purposeful movement choices. Her speaking and singing voice was excellent. She was exciting to watch onstage. She literally lit up the stage with confidence and strength. Excellent diction and dynamics. Her body movements, posture and facials were excellent.

Taylor was wonderful in the role of Mrs. Wormwood. Her birthing scene was hilarious and her voice and accent were perfect for this role. She is a born character actress. Good Job. Wonderful choices in characterization. Great facial expressions, physical choices and comedic timing. Work to develop more breath control in song execution. Good job with choreography execution in dance numbers.

Ensemble

This was a very large, talented ensemble. They were a completely cohesive group on stage while establishing the environment for each scene and musical number. They were consistently in unison with their dances which were apparently well rehearsed. Their energy and facial expressions indicated they were confident and having fun out there. They established the environment for each scene seamlessly. Their pacing and energy were always driving the story along. They were -to an individual- totally focused on the scene and the other actors.

This is a well rehearsed and very talented ensemble. Their voices blended well and their movements were performed with precision. Everyone had good accents and a lot of energy. You should be proud. Strong and excellent energy and unity of purpose maintained throughout the show. Great overall vocal quality and consistency in dance execution. Wonderful facial expression and individual acting choices.

Lighting Design

The lighting design contributed greatly to the mood and atmosphere of the story. The degree of difficulty was very high as there were scenes on the far sides of the stage, up and down and even an aerialist who was lit beautifully. The lighting added to the story overall by helping the audience to focus and follow the scenes and the storytelling. Lighting for giant groups was excellent as it was for the soloists and duets. There was a lovely color palette and period correctness for this particular show. The lighting worked well with the scenery and the costuming and it contributed to the overall mood and atmosphere.

This student lighting team did a very good job. The silhouettes were well done. There were times the TV came on at the wrong time but it was taken care of immediately.

Overall strong lighting isolation and focus executed. Beautiful color palette choices and well executed timing. Wonderful use of the cyc for lighting washes. Minor issues with occasional lack of lighting on actor faces or unplanned lighting pops on lamps, tv, etc. Great work overall.

Scenic Design

The set design absolutely reflected the desired mood and atmosphere of the show. Upon entering the theater, we were immediately impressed with the giant books and blocks permanently surrounding the entire stage from top to bottom. As the show progressed we were taken to a family living room, Matilda's bedroom, a library and a classroom which were all believable and contributed to each of those scenes. Set appeared to be well constructed and had no apparent safety issues including the unique set of swings hanging from above. The design definitely contributed to making the story believable and it moved from scene to scene with ease. This student design team came up with a wonderful working set. The large children's blocks set the tone and the moving set pieces gave height and design to the set. This was a team that worked well together. Beautiful set design. Great interior design of Matilda's home. Well weighted cyc. Great design elements executed with the school desks, chalk board, library, office, trampoline, silks, swings and trap door. Strong Proscenium design execution. Strong color palette choices.

Technical Execution

The cues were flawless during changes of scenery and lights. The timing of the scene changes, the props, costumes contributed to the show. They were smooth and quick. There were a few sound level problems especially in act 2. Transitions were excellent. Mics were generally balanced. Balance between orchestra and singers and sound cues was excellent. The stage crew was well directed and well rehearsed. This stage crew worked like a well oiled machine. The transitions were done quickly and without noise. The sound was very well done and with balance. Good job. Wonderful set transitions done in character seamlessly. Well designed and constructed props throughout. Cues were well executed and smooth with only minor issues.

Overall executed microphone usage with minor sound level issues or muffled sound. Would suggest the use of more natural sound effects needed at times on stage by actors. Great use of special effects for the stage well executed. Create use of set, accessories and props.

Orchestra

Choosing the small group of musicians was a great idea. they contributed to the show without overpowering any of the singers and dance numbers. the size of the orchestra was appropriate to the production. They added to the storytelling and sounded great during every musical number. Cues, timing and entrances in and out of songs and musical numbers was flawless. The music being played suited the emotional quality of each song and scene. The underscoring also was used to add to the dramatic effect of certain scenes.

This orchestra supported the actors well. They didn't over power the singers and and the players music abilities were obvious. One of the best compliments I can give them is that I never thought of the orchestra alone. It was an overall part of the production.

Excellent execution of musical underscore. Great timing and musical execution that was vital in storytelling. Rarely any issues with sound levels between the mic's and music. Great job.

Music Director

Group and soloists were easily heard and understood. They had been coached on tone and pitch quality. The style of the singing was excellent for this production and enhanced the storytelling. Some breath control problems. Excellent balance between the vocalists and the orchestra. Performers did an excellent job of continuing to tell the story when singing whether as a soloist or in the ensemble. There were a lot of soloists in this musical and all of them were well coached and rehearsed. Overall the musical direction was excellent.

This cast was well taught and prepared to perform. They sang with clarity using their British accents. The balance with the orchestra was good and the soloists were on pitch and knew when to pull back. These students are lucky to have a Musical Director and Orchestra leader who do such a good job and they are lucky to have some very talented students.

Strong Musical Direction where the ensemble exhibited confidence and cohesiveness in vocal storytelling and overall sound, timing and harmonies. Cast executed music in character making strong vocal choices. Issues occurred at times with pitch, tone and lack of breath support/control throughout.

Choreographer

The vast variety of musical numbers showcased excellence in technique and style. The individuals in the spotlight showed great confidence in executing their dance numbers. Some were comedic, some were large group unison number, but all were excellent. The choreography added to the greater vision of the production. The pacing and unison large group numbers were excellent. The Latin style moves of Rudolfo and Mrs. W. were great fun. Miss Trunchbull had some fascinating movements. To use mini tramps on stage is really risky but added a fun dimension to the student dancing. The use of the 3 rope swings was a wonderful idea. There was so much to watch sometimes, it was fun to scan the dance crowd.

This choreography fit the musical. It was obvious that the choreographer also worked with the drill team and used arm movements that related to that. This was a great idea for this

production with so many students. It really worked. Simple movements were chosen that were creative for this large group. The dancers were well rehearsed and performed with precision. Nice job. Great dance numbers executed throughout the show in character. Strong energy levels and unity of purpose. Choreography was well suited to the needs of the music. Strong pacing and momentum which kept the story moving forward. Dynamic movement.

Director

The directorial vision was cohesive and well executed throughout the production. Apparently great casting and great use of so many students. Loved seeing so many boys on stage too. the story was effectively communicated. The pacing was a tiny bit slow and made for a long show. But it was not in the scene changes as they were fast. the blocking and stage shapes/scenes were excellently executed throughout the show. It was apparent that all aspects of the show had excellent faculty/parents and students in charge. For such a large cast and so many sets/scenes, it was quite remarkable. Only massive amounts of rehearsal time result in such confident, energetic actors, singers, and dancers. Well done

This director knows what she is doing. The performance was beautifully directed with a creative vision. The combination of comedy and drama in this show was handled very well. It was a pleasure to see this production. Bravo!

Dynamic stage pictures, use of levels and stage areas. Well executed Directorial vision throughout production. Wonderfully staged Direction which created focus and moments on stage. Actors were well trained and full immersed in the production process as an ensemble. Story pacing was consistent, with well executed production elements and transitions. Wonderful Direction Overall.

Musical Overall

Very few suggestions as the production was excellent. A few mishaps with mic volume and some slow scenes still results in an excellent rating for this show. All performers did an excellent job. The set design and lighting plot were excellent. The tech crew knew their jobs and executed them quietly and flawlessly. Ensemble work and stage pictures were excellent. The dance numbers showed excellent variety and skill. Casting is strong. Costumes, props and scene design were excellent. All in all it was extremely fun to watch and amazing to see these young people perform with confidence on stage

This was a very well put together production. It is amazing to hear an entire cast speak with a British accent during the entire production. They sang well, danced well, acted well and could handle comedy like pros. It was beautifully blocked and the orchestra played well and blended with the singers and didn't over power them. The set was creative and fit this production. All in all, this was a really good production.

Wonderfully executed musical show production. Great characterization, energy and cohesive vision executed throughout. Dynamic production values created and carried out by the crew. Congratulations to all on a show well done!