

Inherit a Fortune with El Dorado's "A Gentleman's Guide"
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El Dorado transports all to 1907 London where a poor Monty Navarro learns he is eighth in line to the royal D'Ysquith fortune. Through curated and not-so-curated murders, Monty works his way up among the heirs, all the while unknowingly writing "A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder."

Blake Schalliol as Monty starkly contrasts his operatic odes of love to his mischievous odes of death. As he rises through the ranks, Schalliol progresses a raspy English accent to a more fitting posh verbatim, alongside adapting a royal stature in his growing confidence.

Monty is first teased by the glamorous Sibella, played by Akila Rao, as she pushes and pulls him away in an undecided manner, ultimately resolving that her pompous hair, gown, and class be the more important matter. Not soon after, Monty's love prevails in the eyes of Phoebe D'Ysquith (Sofia Candela), who operatically requites their connection during "Inside Out." Yet inevitably, Monty's romantic interests clash in the climax number "I've Decided to Marry You" as Schalliol leans in, out, and around a doorway dividing his two lives.

On the high end of the class divide, the eight D'Ysquith family members, all portrayed by Owen Switzer, exude distinct personalities ranging from a stuck-up, adventurous woman, to a physically boastful strongman. Their rich background is forever apparent as Switzer spits, shouts, and paces onstage during the song "I Don't Understand the Poor" with a supporting ensemble of Ancestral Portraits that come to life as four fake paintings drop before the audience's eyes.

The Scenic Team masterfully levels all action onstage with impressive snowy landscapes and royally decadent dining rooms, while also allowing adequate filling for scenes in front of the curtain. During such closures, a quiet and speedy Running Crew efficiently manipulate the multi-sided set pieces to around 20 locations in the matter of seconds.

Hair and Makeup (Avery Henkenius and Riley Mills) and Costume's (Sofia Candela and Lucy Cavalluzzi) coupled efforts illustrate a consistent class divide, and effortlessly hide mounds of velcro used for the near-instant quick changes of the D'Ysquith Family.

The many antique props (by JD Cavalluzzi, Avery Gaiennie-Lovell, Emily Lindfors) line each scene with historical accuracy, soon becoming symbols for Monty's murders.

It would be "Foolish to Think" the cast and crew of El Dorado's "A Gentleman's Guide" did not capture the dualities of love and murder.