

St. Margaret's Our Town Provides a Thought-Provoking Twist on an Ordinary Life

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In this Pulitzer Prize winning drama, we follow the citizens of Grover's Corner, particularly George Gibbs and Emily Webb, as they navigate the triumphs, tragedies, and humdrum of everyday life. This metatheatrical performance establishes a 3-act structure that follows George and Emily's childhood, marriage, and death.

This tale is narrated by the omniscient Stage Manager, played by Conrad Kistler. He serves as the bridge between our reality and the one on stage by effortlessly shifting between an observer and active participant, primarily in the wedding sequence. In it, he marries Emily and George, whilst commentating on the scene as a whole to the audience, breaking the fourth wall. He further elevates this unconventional role with his articulated gestures as well as crystal clear projection (an impressive feat in a mic-less show).

Mari Edler tackles the role of Mrs. Gibbs with tenacity. She embodies the classic American housewife, displayed by her physicality, skillfully pantomiming cooking and cleaning. However, she manages to create depth to such a role, expressing her dreams of seeing Paris but quickly crushing it with a hard dose of realism. Throughout the first two acts, she maintains a no-nonsense posture, however this is starkly contrasted with her hunched over and lifeless physicality following her death. While this shift adds depth, she maintains a consistent maternal love, serving as a guide to George, and eventually Emily, as she introduces her to the afterlife

Emily Webb's journey is emphasized by the makeup team (Aili McGregor and Dean Woods). We first meet her in Act 1 as a giddy fourteen-year-old, infatuated with George. Her innocence is conveyed through her braided hairstyle partnered with a youthful lip gloss. In Act 2, she has left childhood, as she wears her hair down, emphasizing her shift to reality. Her romantic side is highlighted with bold red lipstick in preparation to wed George. However, in Act 3, she undergoes a drastic shift, as she is now deceased instead opting for a dreary color palette. Furthering this, she sports under eye bags and a darker contour. Alongside this, she wears her hair in a low bun, starkly contrasting her previous updo and symbolizing her detachment from reality.

Overall, St. Margaret's tells a story that is both heartbreaking and moving, challenging all who watch to discover what makes life meaningful.