

Let's Go Fly a Kite with Capistrano Valley Christian's "Mary Poppins"
written by Anne Rasmussen, a junior at Costa Mesa High School

Capistrano Valley Christian's production of "Mary Poppins" is a delightful, enchanting story, following the Banks family in their search for a nanny. With some luck and quite a bit of magic, Mary Poppins assists this family and helps to reignite the spark of youthful joy that they once had.

Mary Poppins, portrayed by Julia Lybarger, wonderfully embodies a woman who is practically perfect in every way, from her stern yet gentle presence to her melodic, floating vocals. When dealing with an unexpected technical issue, Lybarger expertly continued on, her voice carrying to the audience even without the assistance of the microphone.

Bright and bubbly, Mrs. Corry, portrayed by Sadie Cantrell, lit up the stage with her whimsical, excited expressions and her upbeat demeanor. As she bounced across the stage, her fast-paced, animated speech brought joy to all. Contrastingly, the menacing Miss Andrew, portrayed by Sarah Graves, commanded the stage with her powerful, forceful vocals and her gruesome physicality. Her sharp movements showed both the characters and the audience why she is so feared and respected.

The lighting, designed and operated by Owen Brandt and Brayden Phernambucq, skillfully immersed the audience in the story, bringing a new dimension to the show. Dramatic scenes were highlighted with lights flashing and traveling across the audience. In the song "Playing the Game", the dark pinks and blues brought a chilling, eerily childish feel to the living toys. The final scene concluded with beautiful, shining lights roaming through the audience, bringing them into the cheerful, merry world.

The props, done by Bria Burton, were a wonderful addition to the show, each one adding another layer of immersion. The colorful letter jars in Mrs. Corry's shop brightened the space, bringing fun and whimsy to the stage. The masterful execution of the magical cake was extremely impressive, the cake becoming fully decorated in an instant. Most notable was the self-flying kite, which was used to display the joy that Michael Banks got from having the chance to fly a kite. Each prop contributed just enough to the scenes to elevate the show and bring their world to life.

Capistrano Valley Christian's cast and crew create a brilliant world full of mischief and magic, and their cheery production of "Mary Poppins" will have you saying supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!