

Portola High School “Bops to the Top” with their production of “Disney’s High School Musical: On Stage”!

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At East High, picking the right clique is rule number one, and everyone has their place... that is until the admired basketball captain, Troy Bolton, and witty new girl, Gabriella Montez, defy all laws of fitting in and audition for the musical, making their classmates wonder if sticking to the status quo is truly a rule worth following.

Sauntering on stage with an ambivalent demeanor is Rory Miller as Gabriella Montez. Miller embodies the overwhelming curiosities that come with being a new student, as she captivates the audience’s hearts with bright eyes, angelic vocals, and beautiful nuanced acting. Dylan Chung as Troy Bolton contrasts Miller’s timidity with his confident, nonchalant character and strong, jaw-dropping voice. A huge hand must be given to Chung as this is his first ever show, yet he grabs the audience’s attention with ease. Both Miller and Chung complement each other wonderfully from the moment they meet in their first of many duets: “Start of Something New”, sharing soft glances and subtle genuine smiles.

Rylan Flanigan as Jack Scott is a hilarious addition to the production. Receiving a multitude of cheers and energetic reactions from the audience every time he steps on stage, Flanigan’s booming voice fills the theater as he proclaims the morning announcements with undeniable enthusiasm.

The ensemble distinguishes itself into several varying groups, as the “jocks” relaxed postures coincide with the “nerds” focused facial expressions. A specific group worth noting is the “theater” group, who commit fully to developing their distinct characters. During Ms. Darbus’ renowned detention exercise, the group dedicatedly embodies certain animals, shuffling around the stage like crabs, using their arms as the jaws of an alligator, and much more, which adds a whole new dimension to the scene.

Helping to distinguish these different cliques is the 2005 inspired costume design (Advanced Tech Costumers). From uptight study attire to hand-bedazzled cheer skirts, the costume design emphasizes the diversity and quirkiness of each clique.

The set design (PHS Scenic Team) skillfully utilizes a tiered set of red and white hues and swinging double doors with painted locker detailing behind to bring to life the halls of East High.

With its dedicated cast and crew, Portola’s “High School Musical” leaves its audience “breaking free” from needless stereotypes, and realizing that “we’re all in this together”!