

Anything Goes at Mission Viejo Is A Sailing Success
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Brimming with elaborate tap dances, spontaneous plot twists, and, strangely enough, weddings, Mission Viejo High School presents a buoyant production sharing the bliss of musical theatre through captivating actors and technical elements.

Anything Goes follows stowaway Billy Crocker on a cruise ship in the 1920s as he finds himself in a whirlwind of heartbreak - contrarily garnished with spirited personalities and hilarious moments - as he attempts to pursue engaged Hope Harcourt, in seemingly hopeless circumstances.

"Blow, Gabriel, Blow" is the epitome of the musical's stereotypical Broadway style. The scene commences with Reno Sweeney (Bella Grasso) standing centerstage, and, in a blur of tap dancing and jazz hands, the moment morphs into a parade of a song: characters pour off stage, flashing the palms of their hands in quick motions while bouncing their knees to the beat. Grasso's voice playfully skips through every note, frolicking effortlessly beside the orchestra's melody.

In "Goodbye Little Dream, Goodbye", Hope Harcourt (Hannah Stonebarger)'s singing is convincingly vulnerable, its high tones drifting lamentably to characterize her inner dread upon realizing she cannot marry Billy Crocker; Stonebarger wraps her arms around Billy's hat, swaying faintly from one foot to the other. Illuminated by darker pink light to contrast her previous rosy glow, Stonebarger drops her arms to her side with a small exhale, a faraway stare flooding her eyes.

Spit and Dippy are the essence of a dynamic duo; their enthusiastic whispers and shared glances behind the backs of other characters are an amusing touch, and Aria Morrill's signature snicker follows the duo's mischievous tricks both on and off stage. When Spit (Elena Shumaker) snatches Moonface Martin's money in a game of craps, the two dash off stage. Dippy (Aria Morrill) comedically bends forward as she runs, her feet sliding under each other as her arms flail wide, almost paddling through the air.

The perfectly versatile set designed by Emily Calzada is constructed of white PVC pipes as railings with three sets of stairs and blue painted lines reminiscent of the cruise ship setting.

Makeup by Kristina Gist excellently accentuates the expressions and facial features of characters: Reno belts through fearless red lipstick, with cherry blush popping on her cheeks and brown eyeliner tracing her every wink.

Mission Viejo High School utilizes gifted actors and skillful technicians in a production of Anything Goes which is simply "De-lovely"!