

San Juan Hills is sure to knock your slippers off with their magical Cinderella!
written by Coco Johnson, a junior at St. Margaret's Episcopal School

This 2013 adaptation of Cinderella provides a series of new themes and twists than the original you remember seeing on the movie screen to empower Cinderella as an independent woman. Ella finds comfort in her imagination until it becomes a reality. This show reminds audiences of all ages that nothing is impossible as long as kindness is your first priority.

Ella (Lisa Gnielinski) captivates the audience's attention by making intentional internal acting choices demonstrated in her character development throughout the show. She particularly stands out in her rendition of "In My Own Little Corner", drawing the audience into her world of fantasy by physicalizing her words as she loses herself in her safe haven. Her truly dreamy voice compliments Prince Topher's (William Meshkin) charm in all duets and moments together on stage. William holds his conscientiousness with strong posture throughout the show and commands the stage with a well developed character voice as the lovelorn prince.

Marie (Madeline Lai) particularly is adored by not only Ella, but the entire theater. Lai showcases excellent voice technique and acting prowess. Managing two very distinct characters built in with transitions between the two, she uses physicality and voice work to make both sides of the character stand out on their own.

The Ballroom Guests provide a commitment to their choreography like no other. Each individual on this ballroom floor stays present in the moment and executes their movement wonderfully to bring more magic to this show. With a further emphasis on diction and clarity the ensemble's impact on the story can grow.

The costumes, handmade and custom fitting to the cast, by Grace Holley cannot be overlooked. With a depth of knowledge for the time period and designing craft, Grace puts together truly stunning pieces that leave the actors shining on stage. Specifically in each magical transition scene her design coupled with the lighting design builds for enchanting anticipation.

The Deck Crew effectively moves each set piece flawlessly, keeping the story on pace and never taking from the audience's experience. Particularly when moving the house, every movement is smooth and well thought out.

San Juan Hills' production of Cinderella leaves you inspired to leave your own little corner and desire more in the world.