

2012-2013 Utah High School Musical Theater Awards

PERFORMANCE CRITIQUES

School: Pine View High School

Date of Show: November 8, 2012

Show: The Sound of Music

What did you enjoy most about the production? What were the show's strongest points?

Judge #1: I was very impressed with the comprehensive nature of the production. The scenic, lighting, sound, and costume elements were cohesive, clean, and clear. One of the most technically proficient high school productions I have ever seen. The storytelling was fantastic. I appreciated the communal nature of the creation of the production, from parent volunteer help to the dramaturgy and collaboration with the art department for lobby display, set decoration, etc. The orchestra balanced the show and totally supported the performances. The cast, while large, didn't seem forced and the ensemble seemed engaged throughout the performance. The children were very talented, and fit in with the look and sound of their high school counterparts. Transitions for the most part were smooth, clean, and timely. Direction was clear, with storytelling as the main goal. Choreography was appropriate for the performers and aided in the telling of the story. Maria was very strong, with Captain Von Trapp a good match.

Judge #2: I loved the design, energy and aesthetic of the whole production. Any time you do Sound of Music, audiences expect the film. That is a trap. This production brought a theatrical honesty, unique originality to its concept and accessibility. Thanks for creating a real theatre piece. I loved the set and costumes. Great utilization of the space. Great energy from the performers, particularly Maria and Von Trapp. Utilization of a large cast. Things I loved: First Nun entrance, Vocal sound, the detail to Novice costumes, 20 nuns! Detail of Maria's knock, 16 - 17 choreography -wonderful, Marionette dance, very inventive clearly a choreographer/director conceptual piece and a perfect vehicle to take us beyond the film into the theatre. I wept during the children's singing. Blocking and use of the "whole" stage...Great pictures! I loved the cathedral exit out the back, instead of coming into the theatre. Dancing drilling Nazis. A welcome technically precise surprise. The set... I was thrilled to see the number of students that were involved in the production. A great Show! A reminder of what a good piece of theatre is!!!

What could be improved?

Judge #1: I will always tell a high school to practice transitions and shifts like you would a regular scene. Pay attention to what scenes are "curtain warmers" and what scenes are for the larger stage. (This is a general suggestion going forward. Not many problems in this particular production.) From a movement standpoint, always encourage actors to move with purpose. There sometimes lacked a drive to keep the story and dialogue moving, and an urgent pace will help this, especially in such a long show. All movement and silence must have a purpose.

Judge #2: Transitions between scenes, particularly the end of the show, need to be tightened. No waiting in the dark. The large beautiful home took so much time to get in and out. Design a way to do front of the curtain and then back of the curtain for set up. Use the smaller scenes as "curtain warmers" Entre act, scene 1, and prepping scene 2. These are scenes, like your Raindrops on Roses, that can be done down stage, while sets up stage are being prepped. Transitions should flow seamlessly from one scene to the other. Under-dress costume changes.

Other comments:

Judge #1: Overall a very strong production and a very enjoyable and inspirational night at the theatre. Keep up the collaboration, inclusion, and great art!

Judge #2: A fabulous production, clearly a strong director's hand is organizing and amplifying energy and precision of the production. Great visuals. I also enjoyed the energy of the audience. You can tell this is a supportive community who are proud of this production. Great dance, great acting, great vocals with a clear precise vision and planner at the helm. Stage pictures finely executed by a true director. Thanks for re-invigorating the vision of the classic tale. I saw the director's hand. I appreciated the enthusiasm, precision and pictures.