

S T A R L I G H T
Blue Star
◆ A W A R D S ◆

Adjudicator Comment Form

School: **Oak Park High School**

Production: **Mamma Mia!**

For each of the technical and performance categories below, please find the commentary provided by the adjudicators that recently attended your school's musical.

Technical Categories

Artistic Contribution by a Student: ***(Direction, Music Direction, and/or Choreography)***

Direction

Adjudicators considered—

- Believability and clarity of story and plot
- Dialogue interpretation
- Dynamics between performers
- Animation and energy of performers
- Performance level consistency
- Character consistency
- Physical pictures
- Effective use of space
- Effective use of performers

Name of Student Director: No student was considered for this category.

Music Direction

Adjudicators considered—

- Clarity and diction
- Animation and energy of performers
- Pitch and tonality
- Rhythm
- Vocal balance (i.e. chorus to principals)
- Overall balance (i.e. orchestra to stage performers)
- Consistency of musical elements

Name of Student Music Director: No student was considered for this category.

Choreography

Adjudicators considered—

- Appropriate for period and location of the show
- Inventive and creative
- Use of effective patterns
- Use of space
- Variety of movement
- Execution
- Animation and energy
- Level of difficulty
- Visual consistency of choreographic elements

Name of Student Choreographer: No student was considered for this category.

Orchestra

Adjudicators considered—

- Balance with stage performers
- Balance between orchestral parts
- Pitch and tonality
- Appropriate tempi
- Rhythm
- Execution
- Elements of professionalism (i.e. dress, deportment, etiquette)

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

For so few people, I thought the sound was amazing. They never overpowered the actors.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

I felt that the orchestra was not balanced correctly for the style of music, as well as the placement within the house. The mix between instruments was too heavy in the base, often leaving out the melody and recognizable aspects of the songs we all know. This led to quite a few mixed messages with the cast causing

problems with vocal entrances, correct notes and timing. There appeared to be a small mixing board beside one of the keyboard players that was being used for the orchestra so it's possible that wasn't quite working correctly for the purpose of balance of the orchestra.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The orchestra/band volume was overpowering and created balance issues throughout between itself and the performers. Additionally, the balance within the band struggled, as the bass and drums overpowered the rest with the only strong melody coming from the keyboard. General execution sounded fine, but the balance issues overwhelmed me in the house.

Scenic Design and Construction

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Ease of movement
- Appeared sturdy and safe
- Functional
- Complete and finished
- Size appropriate
- Well-executed

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The scenic design served the purpose of the play, overall. I would recommend looking at the elements used within the world of the play and critically editing choices. An example of this is the bar unit that came out several times to the Stage Left side of the world. Although a wonderfully constructed and quite beautiful set piece, it seemed a bit ostentatious for the purpose it served. It was larger than other set pieces, and took an inordinate amount of time to come on and go off stage, lengthening the scene changes. In other scenes, you asked the audience to accept a platform and a dresser as the “bedroom” although we are still scenically “outside,” so that theory could apply here. A simple unit that is a bar height table top with some bottles/glasses and things of that ilk would have moved on and off stage easily and still been in the realm of minimalistic style of the play.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The scenic design and construction worked very well for this production. The buildings set the scene from the start, allowed for the peek in moments (though the black curtains looked a little unfinished on some of the edges), and created levels. I appreciated the shading on the buildings and that they were dressed well. The bigger pieces that came on (the bed and the bar) were well-purposed and sturdy. The bed skirt was ripped on one side, but overall the pieces looked finished and well maintained. There were some very long transitions

but I watched carefully and it appeared to be more due to crew planning issues (take bed off while the bar comes on) and long musical interludes. Honestly I couldn't understand why the lights weren't coming up sooner sometimes but it didn't usually appear to be due to the set. Overall I felt that the scenic design was one of the strongest aspects of the production.

Lighting Design

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Helped to focus the attention of the audience
- Well-executed

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The lighting generally lit the stage for the purpose of seeing faces and actions. Using PAR cans for the main body of lighting, I would recommend using a diffusion gel to assist in blending the various PAR beam times together (Med. Flood, Wide Flood lamp types). This would assist in covering and blending dark spots between focus points of individual lights. Additionally, I would use a diffusion gel to the LED fixtures as well, to assist in the blending of the colors used in the design. During several scenes, there were splotches of red and blue that the cast would move in and out of – rather than blending it into an even wash to make the color usage more uniform within the acting areas. Generally, a Rosco 119 or Rosco 114 would be good choices for various diffusion needs.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The blue light (to indicate water I'm guessing?) by the dock was a bit bright/distracting and not needed. The other washes and spots worked well without any major areas of note, other than occasional bright reflections from the glass on the door at the landing on the set.

Costume Design and Construction

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained character
- Established and maintained location
- Gave performers full range of motion
- Well-executed (fit, neatness, attention to detail, etc...)

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

I especially loved the girl's disco outfits. They really popped!!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The costumes served the characters well and represented their inner characters! I enjoyed the jewel tone color choices for the disco outfits by the three leading ladies. I would look at a few editing choices to accommodate for different body types. Using the same color pallet and type of fabrics can easily and cohesively bring different styles/construction methods together in a uniform look – while looking crisp and clean with different body types. As an example, using an empire waist line method, and putting in a flowing/bloused out amount of fabric that hangs low, mirroring the arms and legs of the outfit – would have been an interesting visual look to help with larger body types on the disco outfits.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The overall costume design helped the paint the picture as needed throughout. The shark costume during “Lay All Your Love On Me” felt more of a distraction that purposeful. The “Super Trouper” costumes were very low cut in the front and not flattering on all performers. If they were tailor made, I would encourage adjusting things a bit so that all performers could feel comfortable and confident in the outfits. That can work better than trying to fit designs used in other productions.

Hair and Makeup Design

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Established and maintained character
- Well-executed (fit, neatness, attention to detail, etc...)

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The hair and makeup was consistent and uniform for the entire show. Of particular note, the stipple effect on Sky used for his 5 O'clock shadow, was a good color choice. I would have gone a little lighter on the amount of stipple used, as to make it seem a little more natural, compared to his "clean shaven" look so it wouldn't be such a stark contrast and perhaps read more artificial than it really was.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The hair design allowed for individual choices, while still maintaining a generally cohesive look. Most performer's hair was out of their faces though Ali's front wisps were in her face at times. The drawn on facial hair was not needed and did not appear authentic. I think subtle age lines would have been more effective. The bald cap blending on Father Alexandrios went all over his face, washing him out. If foundation is going to be used that heavily it then needs contouring and shading so that the performer can still show clear facial expression visibly.

Lighting Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Executed cues with accuracy
- Completed their tasks with no performance interruptions
- Transitioned smoothly between cues

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

There were no notable errors or performance interruptions.

Sound Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Executed cues with accuracy
- Maintained balance between performers and orchestra
- Maintained balance among performers
- Provided clarity

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Missed cues happen to everyone. But when it's missed, the best thing is get it on as fast as possible. There were a few times that it went on and on.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Most all of the sound pick-ups and other muting/un-muting of microphones happened to be executed on time and accurately. The sound balance from the ensemble members was difficult to hear and understand. Several times, I completely lost all of the words of the ensemble during large numbers. Additionally, I would recommend doing a general EQ of each of the various microphone elements used within the plot for the cast. Different elements have different aspects of the EQ Spectrum that they either enhance or negate. It may help to start with a general FLAT EQ of each individual, and modify the EQ per person so that they all sound uniform. There was a drastic difference between microphone EQ of cast members, especially noticeable between Sophie and Donna. It becomes somewhat disjointed especially during scenes when they were together. As an additional resource, many element manufacturers have data/spec sheets on their elements that help assess the parts of the spectrum the element works within.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Sound was a major struggle for this production. Mics kept popping and coming in and out, an occasional cue was missed, and the balance, both with the band and amongst the performers, was off throughout. Unfortunately the sound issues affected the clarity of storytelling and distracted from staying in the moment. The singing coming from backstage was only occasionally heard to the point where it was just confusing. Where the band is placed could help as well as performer projection, but technical errors were also at play.

Deck/Set Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed their tasks with no performance interruptions

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

There were many long transitions, but I could not see any consistent concrete reason as to why. I did notice some planning errors that made things take longer like not moving the bed off stage right and the bar on stage left simultaneously.

Flying Effects Crew (re: flying of performers only)

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed tasks with no performance interruptions
- Appeared to be safely executed

No adjudication provided for this category.

Costume Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed their tasks within a timely manner
- Accuracy and completion of the performer's look

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

All changes occurred in a timely manner and created complete looks for each performer. I do not believe the long transitions were for changes as it would appear all the performers were on stage and ready but the music kept going and the lights stayed down.

Hair and Makeup Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed their tasks within a timely manner
- Accuracy and completion of the performer's look

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The facial hair makeup was not well-executed and Father Alexandrios needed shading and mascara to make his face pop with all the blending foundation. Generally though all looks were maintained and hair stayed in place even with changes.

Performance Categories

Adjudicators considered the following for each performance category:

Singing:

- Pitch and tonality
- Rhythm
- Diction
- Phrasing and interpretation
- Expression and artistry

Acting:

- Animation and energy
- Believability
- Dialogue interpretation
- Relationship to other performers
- Character consistency
- Elements of poise and ease on stage
- Stage presence

Stage Movement:

- Accuracy
- Character consistency
- Fluidity
- Motivation of movement
- Animation and energy
- Spatial awareness

Dancing:

- Precision
- Animation and energy
- Execution of choreography
- Expression and artistry
- Spatial awareness

In addition to the above elements, adjudicators considered the following for the Ensemble:

Singing

- Vocal balance
- Balance of harmonic parts

Acting

- Dynamics between performers

Actress in a Lead Role

Student's Name: **Francesca Young**

Role: **Donna Sheridan**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Great and so believable. I honestly thought you were so much older and your voice is really something. Keep on with the music because you got it!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

I felt this actress had a nice grasp of the maturity and calm aspect of what a mature, motherly figure would embody. Her voice was quite lovely and suited the role well! I would have liked to have seen her make a few

bolder choices to create a dynamic between the first part of the show, and the last part. Specifically – a larger change between first seeing her 3 blasts from the past vs. how she interacts with Sophie in Act II during “Slipping Through My Fingers.”

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Francesca has a strong singing voice and appears comfortable on stage. I did not notice any significant errors in pitch. Her approach to her character was a bit one note throughout. She established Donna’s downtrodden, negative, frustrated nature, but even when she was with her friends or singing with her Dynamos, her energy and intention appeared the same. Seeing differences in these scenes would help to give us a glimpse of the Donna from the past, which would help complete the story. Also, a little more softness and smiles during some of the moments with Sophie would go a long way as well.

Student's Name: **Sierra Hermsen**

Role: **Sophie Sheridan**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Great job on Sophie! She had the innocence of a young girl, but also showed that she was trying to become a young woman. I especially liked your relationship with Donna!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actress had a lovely, clear and crisp vocal tone that served the style of music very well! She knew how to use her instrument and displayed it through the entire performance. I enjoyed her child-like brevity that played counter to her mother's cool, calm and collected personality.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Sierra was very consistent with her portrayal of the role of Sophie. She had an excellent singing voice that paired perfectly with the pop score of the production. She told the story through her dialogue on a base level, but I would have liked it to go a bit deeper. Working on developing each of the relationships, figuring out what she feels for each of them, why she feels that way, etc. would help to connect us to her story. Taking each reaction and emotion just a bit bigger by truly becoming the role, empathizing with her journey, rather than putting on the front of the character makes a big difference. She was also a skilled dancer and moved comfortably and confidently throughout (even on a rotating bed!)

Actor in a Lead Role

No student was considered for this category.

Actress in a Supporting Role

Student's Name: **Danielle Blankenship**

Role: **Tanya**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

You played Tanya with such sassiness! It seemed like you really enjoyed her. I felt like the choreography in "Does Your Mother Know" was a bit busy and could have been used to better define the character, as a performer look for ways to use what is given to you for your performative advantage. But character/voice wise you did a great job!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

I felt the actress did a suburb job of portraying the "upper class" aspect of the role! She had a nice juxtaposition between her role and that of Rosie, which played well off each other as the best friend duo. I would like to have seen a few different choices during "Does your Mother Know?" - the song itself tells that she enjoys the attention, but is playing hard to get. I felt the portrayal during this performance was one more of annoyance and disregard for Pepper. In truth, she likes the fact that the younger guys fawn over here – but knows that she shouldn't. So, she plays hard to get all the while attempting to drag them along to continue to give her affection to feed her own insecurities.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Danielle seemed to grow in her understanding of her character as the production progressed. She sang well, though more volume and projection would add clarity to the harmonies as they were difficult to hear. I think a deeper understanding of this character would give each line and movement a little more style and purpose. Is she biting with her humor or just doesn't realize her arrogance? How does she feel about her past? She makes jokes, but I can't tell her position on it by her delivery. What is her current relationship with Rosie like? They poke fun at each other, but do they still care? Same with Donna. All of these emotions may be indicated by the script, but how they are delivered gives their full intention and meaning. I wanted to know more about Tanya through a more thoughtful delivery of the dialogue and more purposeful choices.

Student's Name: **Emily Hermes**

Role: **Rosie**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Absolutely a HOOT! You embraced all of what Rosie is about. You gave 110 percent the entire show. Very good job!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actress did a wonderful job with this role! Her comedic timing was SPOT ON and she had such an ease and flow about her interactions on stage that made you instantly fall in love with the character. Her relationship with Bill was also spot on, and she knew exactly how to corner the market on the “awkward people in love” characterizations – which is sometimes difficult to do comically!

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Emily had moments of bold choices throughout that I would have loved to have seen more of. Don't expect the dialogue to do all of the work, bring it to life by telling your version of Rosie's story. There were some pitch issues on occasion during “Take a Chance on Me,” but when singing in the trio she did well and added to the harmonies. She was confident on stage and reliable to keep the story moving.

Actor in a Supporting Role

Student's Name: **Ashton Mychalczuk**

Role: **Sam Carmichael**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Overall the actor served the maturity of the role well, and had a stage presence that elicited the character. There were some pitch issues in the higher register of songs which seemed to be caused by straining to hit the notes physically.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Ashton came off a bit detached and cold throughout. Some of that was fitting of the role, but some of it was in his delivery. I did see some moments of connection with Sophie near the end through sincere facial expressions and a more varied approach to the dialogue. He struggled to maintain pitch at times throughout “Knowing Me, Knowing You” and generally appeared a bit stiff in his movement. I would encourage him to pick an approach to how he communicates Sam's pushback with Donna. He says at the end that he's just been trying to tell Donna he's still in love with her the whole time, which felt surprising. How could we approach his dialogue in a different way from the start that allows for us to see his true intentions even if only through hindsight? Is he boasting and blaming her for leaving so he can explain why he stayed away so long? How might that change how he delivers his lines and how he interacts with Donna? Going through a thorough character discovery like this will help to understand the role completely which will allow him to fully tell his story to us.

Student's Name: **Jacob Collier**

Role: **Harry Bright**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Really great work! I especially liked the duet with Donna. Both of your voices were so lovely! Keep up the good work.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actor was understated in the role in all the right ways! I felt the scenes he was in were natural and portrayed in an easy-going fashion that lent itself to the other actors in the scene. There was a hint of a British accent at the top of the show, but it seemed to float in and out and eventually – by mid Act I, was completely gone.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Jacob was consistent in his character and illustrated the kindness of Harry, but I wanted to know more about him. We know he played the guitar and was a rebel of sorts and now is a banker. Is he longing for the good old days? I noticed that he didn't have the British dialect though he talks of being from there but I do not feel that is needed to create the character. Other character choices would help to tell us more, as his story was one I just could quite get a handle on through Jacob's interpretation. Vocally he did well and was enjoyable to watch; I just wanted to know more about the story he was trying to tell.

Student's Name: **Zachary Scott**

Role: **Bill Austin**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actor was naturally suited for the role he inhabited. From the moment, he came on stage as the awkward adventurer, I was glued to the goofy and childlike aspect to the awkward character this is. His match with Rosie was PERFECT and continually made me smile. They seemed genuine and adorable and had me rooting for them the whole time.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Zachary was well invested in each moment on stage. He appeared to be making the most connections with others through his choices and brought more life to his role because of this. I couldn't quite get a solid feel for how he felt about Rosie. I know at the end he appeared overwhelmed by her, but their interactions with each other were inconsistent prior to that. He moved well on stage even with a large pack on his back and brought energy to the scenes he was in.

Student's Name: **Colby Johnson**

Role: **Sky**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Colby was a bit inconsistent in his portrayal of Sky throughout. He connected well with his “buddies” in the early scenes and party moments. He seemed to have a surface level relationship with Sophie until he got too angry very quickly when he discovered her invites to her father figures. Tracking his character arc with more purpose would help to connect these moments. Pitch wavered in “Lay All Your Love On Me” but he moved with confidence, even continuing on well after he was essentially dropped!

Actress in a Featured Role

Student's Name: **Arika Corn**

Role: **Ali**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

I really felt like it was such a joy to watch you. You stayed in character even when you were not leading the scene.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Arika created a strong base of friendship and energy along with Lisa from early on in the show. She knew what she wanted to say and how she wanted to deliver it. She seemed to have a nice grasp on how she related with both Sophie and Lisa. Her efforts to make conscience character choices did not go unnoticed.

Student's Name: **Madi Wells**

Role: **Lisa**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

I thought you did a fine job keeping character and staying within the scenes.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Madi made some nice character choices with her gestures and facial expressions to create a better picture of Lisa quickly. I enjoyed how she engaged with the other women and felt she was invested in the story. Occasionally she did not fully extend her arm movements in the dances but she generally approached everything with full intention.

Actor in a Featured Role

Student's Name: **Sammy AbuNamous**

Role: **Pepper**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

I struggled to hear Pepper when he was singing and couldn't quite follow the purpose of his character choices prior to that.

Student's Name: **Zen Langley**

Role: **Eddie**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

You were funny, but be careful when you have your time in the spotlight that it's not over-acted. It tends to make it unbelievable; just pull in the reins a bit and you will be there.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

I struggled to hear Zen often. This was in part due to technical issues, but could be helped by more projection and clarity on his part. Because of this I had a more difficult time following and investing in his character.

Student's Name: **Cameron Burns**

Role: **Father Alexandrios**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actor had an energetic character portrayal that brought a fun and bright aspect to the end of the show.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Cameron accomplished what was necessary as the role of the priest and I could hear he made an effort to project his dialogue.

Actress in an Ensemble Role

Student's Name: **Ivy Byers**

Role: **Greek Women/Islanders**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actress was animated and engaged in the scenes around her each time I saw her on stage.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Student's Name: **Kylie McLane**

Role: **Featured Dancer/Young Donna**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

When you were dancing or acting, it was hard to watch anything else. You didn't steal focus - it was just a joy to watch you. Very believable and the Young Donna dance was exquisite.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Student's Name: **Maya Horn**

Role: **Greek Women/Islanders**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Maya was completely invested each moment she was on stage. She appeared passionate about her performance and gave it purpose and drive. She performed the choreography well and was enjoyable to watch throughout.

Actor in an Ensemble Role

Student's Name: **Donovan Falder**

Role: **Young Men/Wedding Guests**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The actor was animated and engaged in the scenes around him each time I saw him on stage.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Student's Name: **Brenden Blue**
Role: **Featured Dancer/Young Harry**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Great work not only in the dancing, but believability while you were dancing. Great, great job!!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Brenden's love for performing was clear throughout. He was very invested in each moment and added a dramatic flair to all he did while on stage. I saw chemistry and connection between him and his dance partner during "Our Last Summer." He was a skilled mover and created beautiful stage pictures throughout.

Ensemble

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

All in all the whole group looked like they were having a ball! And when that happens, the audience has fun. Good job!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The ensemble filled the individual roles of the guests around the island as needed. I would have liked to have heard more vocals from them during their larger ensemble songs.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

This ensemble was very invested and enthusiastic when on stage. They all really attacked the choreography and displayed great energy throughout. I struggled to hear their singing however, due to the band placement, sound balance, and a lack of projection. During the scenes when they were not on stage, I would occasionally hear hints of harmonies floating out through the speakers so I believe they were singing backstage, but again, the sound balance created a lot of issues for me to track that well.

Additional Comments:

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No additional comments provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

From a choreography standpoint, the movement on the stage in dance needs to reflect the story being told in a song just as much as the acting does. As an example, the sequence for “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme” is, in theory, the Bachelorette party where everyone gets up and starts dancing. The little asides where Sophie finds the three various fathers are intended to pop up among the chaos and frivolity of the dance and party. They’re the asides that help move the story along into Act II. I felt the choreography missed this aspect of storytelling. The ensemble was in a line formation doing moves that seemed less dance party like and more drill-team like. The vignettes with Sophie and her fathers were pre-staged and setup long before the scene itself took place. The chaos of the dance party and the internal struggle that Sophie is feeling as she balances all three of these potential fathers is a perfect chance for reflection within the choreography. In this production, everything was very rigid, lined up and uniform – this I felt took away from the angst and energy the characters were feeling in this moment. I never got that sense of the story of the song from the choreography.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

I wanted to give a shout out to Chase Droegemueller. Sammy AbuNamous was unfortunately injured in Act I and was replaced by Chase for Act II. I could hear him a bit better and he did a very nice job at creating a story with Tanya considering the quick turnaround.