

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

Adjudicator Feedback

Performance: Oak Park High School – *Into the Woods*

Actress in a Lead Role

Name: Francesca Young

Role: Witch

Commentary: Strong vocally throughout the entire show. Acting was very strong when in full witch costume; once she changed into “second act witch” some of the energy and portrayal of the character was lost. When in full costume in Act I, her energy was high and she physically engaged in the character. It really helped to portray her emotions, not only over a large cape and wig, but a mask as well. Remember the second act witch is when we not only see the character’s “humanity” but her grasping who she is without powers and wanting a “perfect world” that seemingly does not exist.

Actress in a Lead Role – Second Evaluation

Name: Kylie McLane

Role: Baker’s Wife

Commentary: Lovely voice, at times she would go sharp trying to push the tempo in certain songs, but overall strong singing. When the tempos are slower, the energy has to be high to push through the slower tempo and keep the audience engaged, I felt as if there was a lack of energy in this character. At times, it felt like the lines were being said without any meaning behind them. Make sure to find motivation in your dialogue, and then convey that through your inflection.

Actor in a Lead Role

Name: Jacob Collier

Role: Baker

Commentary: Wonderful vocals, really clear tone and pronunciation. Again, when the tempos are slower, the energy has to be high to push through and keep the audience engaged. Even though the

baker lacks confidence as a character, I felt Mr. Collier's portrayal left the audience wanting more. The energy was really lacking from this character and although he sounded great, I didn't feel like he was "in it."

Actress in a Supporting Role

Name: Jenna Holland

Role: Little Red Riding Hood

Commentary: Wonderful voice, be careful with that scream though! Really wonderful job acting through the mask. I felt like Ms. Holland did a great job portraying the spunkiness of Little Red through the mask and her vocals only added to the great portrayal.

Actress in a Supporting Role – Second Evaluation

Name: Madi Wells

Role: Cinderella

Commentary: Ms. Wells had a very lovely voice, a little unsupported at the top at times. There were some timing issues between Cinderella and the pit where she was looking straight at the conductor. Make sure if this needs to be done, it is done in character. There was a lack of energy in this character, specifically in all of the "midnights" when she is running away from the prince. Those moments should feel rushed, and excited, and confused; instead, I felt as if she wasn't running away from anyone, more like wandering. Really came into her character in the second act. I could feel a lot more of your lines. Really good job.

Actor in a Supporting Role

Name: Chase Droegemuller

Role: Jack

Commentary: Used physicality to get over the limitations of the mask for facial expressions. Did a fine job portraying the character and the singing was also fine. Could have used more energy when working with other characters; alone he was strong, but with others the connection was gone.

Actor in a Supporting Role – Second Evaluation

Name: John Morrison

Role: Narrator

Commentary: Had great presence as Narrator in the first act. In the second act, before the giant kills him, it was flatter; there were some lines dropped which affected the energy, but the entire exchange needed more risk.

Actor in a Supporting Role – Third Evaluation

Name: Brenden Blue

Role: Cinderella's Prince

Commentary: Wonderful job acting through the mask. His physicality and his energy were very strong. Vocals were good as well, some pitch issues on the climbing lines "Am I not sensitive, clever..." Really good understanding of the character and full commitment. Great energy!

Actress in a Featured Role

Name: Emily Hermes

Role: Jack's Mom

Commentary: Did a wonderful job as Jack's mom. Lovely voice and very motherly. She played the character more motherly than humorous, but strong work. The audience could tell she understood everything she was saying and had meaning and energy behind her lines.

Actress in a Featured Role – Second Evaluation

Name: Ginger Jones

Role: Rapunzel

Commentary: There were a lot of octave changes at odd times in her songs. The energy needed increased when she was in the tower. Most of the acting was done through hand movement, not feeling it with the entire body. Continue to expand your performances to be energized with the full body, face, and voice.

Actor in a Featured Role

Name: Zac Scott

Role: Wolf

Commentary: Really good job with the block-ography and singing. Did a good job portraying the wolf; my only critique would be when the wolf plays granny. It felt like he was sitting and saying the lines. Take that moment to expand the character, playing that role within a role.

Actor in a Featured Role – Second Evaluation

Name: Colby Johnson

Role: Milky White

Commentary: I've seen Milky White portrayed by humans and non-humans, and this portrayal did well. There were a couple of missed opportunities for humor, but during "It Takes Two" I was laughing quite a lot at the sitting, mouth-open cow in the corner.

Actor in a Featured Role – Third Evaluation

Name: Tristan Young

Role: Steward

Commentary: Really good work with this role. Had good stage presence.

Actor in a Featured Role – Fourth Evaluation

Name: Donovan Falder

Role: Mysterious Man

Commentary: The line delivery could have used more physicality. I also felt that he tried to modernize the music too much when singing with slides up to notes and such.

Actor in a Featured Role – Fifth Evaluation

Name: Tony Coronado

Role: Rapunzel's Prince

Commentary: Very prince-ly. Good work singing and portraying this role. Had good stage chemistry with his brother (Cinderella's prince).

Ensemble

Commentary: Ensemble was a wide variety of Disney characters; the only one that kind of threw me off was Dorothy. Ensemble did a good job melding into the cast with being on stage so little and vocally did a fine job.

Overall Production – Performance Elements

Commentary: Overall, I see why you picked this show, you have a very vocally strong group of students who pay attention to the difficulty of the music and obviously work very hard. The blocking at times took away from the scenes, especially the midnights with Cinderella and Baker's Wife, and the Witch and the Mysterious Man. Overall, with the slower tempos the energy was lacking. I know it is difficult; not only this difficult music, but also the masks add another layer of difficulty. I think the beginning work was there, but there needed to be that last final push to really bring the whole show together.

Technical:

Orchestra

Commentary: This orchestra did a great job with difficult music. At times, the horns were a little pitchy, but that is being extremely picky. There were times I wish the tempos could have been brought up a little bit to help with the energy on stage, but bravo to the orchestra on some difficult music. Good job on "Your Fault!"

Scenic Design and Construction

Commentary: The houses were fine, mostly hand-painted. I understand the use of drops, but the backdrop seemed a little loose. I liked the look of trees that were painted and the levels of the stage helped to create different vignettes.

Lighting Design

Commentary: Lighting was very simple; there were opportunities that were missed, especially during the giant scenes, "Your Fault," and "Last Midnight".

Costume Design and Construction

Commentary: Costumes were great; all very period minus the Little Red dress and the Witch's second act dress. Personally, I wanted sleeves. The only major comment I have is the masks. With the smiles on the masks, it really was distracting from the expressions the young actors were trying to make. I would have preferred either skin-tone masks or black masks. I understand and appreciate the goal of those, but it does lock the appearance into one emotion.

Hair and Makeup Design

Commentary: Hair and makeup was perfect for the characters and worked with the masks.

Technical Crew – Lighting

Commentary: Did a good job with transitions and hiding a few times in which the set was not ready.

Technical Crew – Sound

Commentary: Sound was really off between vocals and orchestra. I know it is difficult because it was a recording, but there were times I couldn't hear the orchestra at all.

Technical Crew – Deck/Set

Commentary: I could see the tech crew, and it looked like they struggled with a couple transitions, but overall, good job.

Technical Crew – Flying Effects (flying of performers only)

No feedback was provided for this category.

Technical Crew – Costume

Commentary: Nicely done! They had the witch in her new costume at the end of the first act on time! That is one of the elements to watch for and they tackled the task well.

Technical Crew – Hair and Makeup (consider pre-show application)

Commentary: Did a good job working around the masks.

Overall Production – Technical Elements

Commentary: Technically, I wish the recording had caught a few moments where they were zoomed in somewhere else. Overall, I felt technically it was very standard and fit the needs of the show. The lighting could have been a little more intricate, but also changed moods at appropriate times. This is a very challenging time to create theatre, masks/recording changing how elements work. I applaud you for taking on the hurdles and creating this show!