Here are the Cappies reviews for Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. There were 24 critics at your show, and up to now we have received 21 reviews. If we receive late reviews, we will forward them to you.

Please share these reviews with your cast and crew.

Thank you.

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL

A classic comedy with plenty of love, money, and confusion, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES follows Lorelei Lee and her best friend, Dorothy Gilbert, as they search for love on their trip to Europe. Bringing this hilarious comedy to life, Oak Park High School combines their energetic cast with their hard-working crew to create an amusing romance story.

Based on Anita Loos' 1925 novel of the same name, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES was adapted into a musical that premiered on Broadway in 1949, and it was also converted into a 1953 movie starring Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe. The movie coined classic phrases such as "dumb blondes" and ï¿½diamonds are a girl's best friend." Oak Park High School personalizes the iconic play with their entertaining cast, picture-perfect costumes, and talented marketing team.

Kenna Foreman and Christina Oak shine on stage as Lorelei Lee and Dorothy Gilbert. Foreman's dramatic facial expressions convey her state of panic as she nervously paces across the stage. Oak's hilarious gesticulation and impeccable delivery of her sassy one-liners fill the air on stage. Together, Foreman and Oak bring energy to the stage and perfectly capture Lorelei and Dorothy's teenage naivety.

Madi Wells keeps the audience laughing with her hilarious portrayal of Lorelei's raging feminist aunt, Aunt Dolly. Her melodramatic gesticulation combined with her exasperated reactions to Lorelei's antics makes her stand out. Although Emily Witter has a smaller role as the Chambermaid, she distinguishes herself with smooth delivery of hilarious quips. When the tea set suddenly breaks, Witter's quick thinking disguises the accident as an intentional action.

Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia transport the audience back to the Roaring 20s with flapper dresses, elegant gowns, and a classic maid outfit. Although Lorelei and Dorothy's outfits change multiple times throughout the play to match the different scenes, the costume changes are stunningly quick. They even include a hot pink gown, similar to Marilyn Monroe's in the movie adaption. Kylie Valencia also does an amazing job of promoting the play. Not only are there stylish playbills, but there are also posters, t-shirts, and a promotional video.

Although there are problems with feedback from the microphones, and they occasionally pick up on sounds backstage, the sound team quickly adjusts to fix the problems. While the French accents many characters use add to the comedy and authenticity of the show, they cause some confusion in understanding the dialogue. At times, poor diction and projection make it difficult to understand the performers, but their body language allows for the audience to follow the plot. Despite the minor problems they face, the cast and crew recover in a remarkably short amount of time.

Oak Park High School's passionate cast, combined with picturesque costumes and impressive marketing strategies, makes for a delightful tale full of misunderstandings, love, and money.

by Sydney Heriford of Raymore-Peculiar High School

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ADVENTURE WITH THE BLONDES

Has anyone ever wondered where the terms "dumb blondes" came from or why "blondes have more fun"? It all started from the romantic comedy, Anita Loos', GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. At Oak Park High School, they have portrayed all of Loo's different hardships and difficulties, ranging from lies, deceit, confusion, misunderstandings, and love, that will lead you to want more.

This romantic comedy is adapted from a musical movie, based on Anita Loo's work, that starred Marilyn Monroe. As we follow the story of Lorelei- the blonde- and Dorothy- her best friend- on their adventure to France in hope of getting an education... but secretly wanting to find love, we see the aspects of those original dumb blonde moments that will leave us wondering if this blonde really will have fun and if there really is a guy that loves her for who she is.

Kenna Foreman, who is a senior who has been involved with every show since her freshman year, played the role of Lorelei Lee fantastically. Foreman's acting makes us believe how the terms "dumb blondes" and "blondes have more fun" were created through this play. Jordan Green, who also is a member of the set and construction crew of this play and many more, starred as the lead male as Henry Spoffard III, who was Lorelei's love interest. Once Green was on the stage, he knew how to attract the audience with his charms that left them wanting more.

Christina Oak, who is also a senior and has participated in every production her school has held, be it behind the scenes or on stage, portrayed the role of Dorothy- the best friend of Lorelei- very well. The chemistry of the two best friends was impeccable, seeing that it left the audience knowing that those two ladies have a special friendship and are caring towards one another. Reese Hill, who played the role of Mrs. Spoffard, is a sophomore and was excited to have her first supporting role in a play. People saw that from the moment she walked on the stage, she would bring laughter because of her zany and witty humor.

The technical crew also make a huge difference in making this show successful. The lighting crew, including Izzy Christus and Nathan Nance, make the stage a spectacular contribution to the play and light up the actors and actresses very well. The costume managers, Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia, dress their performers in eye-catching costumes that match the time period.

To say the least, Oak Park High School achieves a level of expertise in the field of theatre and performance when it comes to GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. Each and every one of the members show great promise, as they perform with much enthusiasm and energy, an energy that leaves us wanting for more.

by Intan Putri of Raymore-Peculiar High School

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IT'S WORTH TRAVELING FOR THIS EXPERIENCE

Do blondes really have more fun? Oak Park High School answers that question and many more in their relentlessly side-splitting comedy GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. Full of witty comedy and striking performances, there is not a boring moment in this show.

The original theatrical run of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES opened on Broadway in 1926, it ran for 199 performances. It is based on the Anita Loos book of the same name. It spawned a musical adaption and a widely popular film adaption in 1953, starring Marilyn Monroe. It follows the exploits of Lorelei Lee and Dorothy Gilbert, in 1924, as they try to scrape by in Paris, penniless and surrounded by strangers.

The central character of the show, Lorelei Lee, played by Kenna Foreman, is a stereotypically ditzy blonde whose half-baked plans are the catalyst for conflict. Foreman embraces the spunky nature of Lorelei and works it into every aspect of her character. Her body language and reactions perfectly encapsulate Lorelei. Playing opposite of Lorelei is Henry Spoffard III, played by Jordan Green. Henry is the direct heir to his family's fortune. Green's chemistry with Foreman is unassailable. He commands the stage with his romantic presence every time he waltzes onstage.

The Broussards, played by Sammy Abu Namous and Jacob Collier, are perfect examples of a textbook comedic duo. Their comedic talents play wonderfully off of each other. Even though they are only in one scene, they have the audience howling with laughter for the entirety of their stage time. Namous embodies the French detective with an expressive accent that fills the theatre with every line. Mrs. Spoffard, played by Reese Hill, is the rich mother of Henry. Hill is able to portray her age with ease. Hill's timing of comedic lines sets the bar for all other comedic lines. She draws the attention of the audience with every movement she has on the stage.

The costumes, designed by Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia, are perfectly paired to the characters who wear them. Every dress and suit fit the actors perfectly and add to their characters. Their use of multiple costumes to show the passage of time is very professional. The costume changes are done quickly and efficiently, as to not add substantial time to the scene changes. The set, designed by Joseph Lunares, is grandiose and fills the stage with a time-period setting that does not distract from the rest of the production.

Oak Park High School creates an encapsulating look into a couple of stressful weeks in the life of Lorelei Lee and Dorothy Gilbert. The cast and crew of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES work together in perfect harmony, even in the face of minor microphone mishaps, to create a show that pleases both the ears and the eyes of the audience.

by Archer Wright of Belton High School

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BLONDES PREFER A GENTLEMAN

The curtains are closed, the purple stage lights are flashing off of them, the lights in the audience start to dim, the show is starting. Oak Park High School is performing play adaption of Anita Loos' GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. It is the second night of Oak Park High School's show; the audience is quieting as the lights start to dim, and the curtains open, the show begins.

Anita Loos' GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES novel was originally published in 1925, with the musical adaptation first opening in 1949, and later a film adaptation in 1953. In the play version of this show, it goes for a more faster paced and more humor-filled adaption of the original novel by Anita Loos.

Lorelei Lee, who is portrayed by Kenna Foreman, most certainly uses her charismatic and enchanting behavior to prove that she is indulged in the character Lorelei Lee, a not so bright blonde girl with a dream to find the one she loves. Kenna Foreman fulfills her role with an astonishing performance as the quirky and zany character that Lorelei Lee is. Lorelei Lee's (Kenna Foreman) relationships with all of the amazing cast of romantic, funny, or downright weird characters while on stage makes it feel as though you are there yourself witnessing it all happening. Lorelei Lees' (Kenna Foreman) best friend Dorothy Gilbert, who is portrayed by Christina Oak, worked very well on stage together. You can feel the chemistry between these two best friends, whether they are panicking trying to figure out what to do, or they are just talking gossip, the way these two characters' work on stage together can really be understood clearly.

Reese Hill, who portrays Mrs. Spoffard, is one of the most noticeable characters in the performance. Mrs. Spoffard (Reese Hill) takes to the stage and is instantly one of the most remarkable characters. The way Reese works in the background of scenes when she is watching the other actors perform is extraordinary, from scenes where she is wearing a funny hat and eating an entire box of chocolates, to scenes where she is just quietly drinking alcohol in the background, while still eating chocolates, Mrs. Spoffard (Reese Hill) is one of the most comedic characters in the performance.

The setting of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is in the 1950s, between New York City and Paris, France. The costumes for this performance were exceptionally well done, from the beginning to end it feels like you are set in that time frame. One of the most phenomenal dresses was Lorelei Lees' pink dress during the second act of the play. The dress was based on Marilyn Monroe's pink dress in the film adaptation, looks exactly like Marilyn's dress, from the fabric to the huge bow on the back of the dress. All of the actors' costumes represented their characters and moods throughout the whole play. Lorelei Lee (Kenna Foreman) and her complicated lover, Henry Spoffard III, portrayed by Jordan Green, wear coordinated clothing throughout the play as well- when Lorelei (Kenna) is wearing the iconic pink dress with the huge bow on the back, Henry (Jordan) wears a matching pink bow around his neck with his suit. The coordination of the clothing is marvelous.

The microphones during the first act of the play were very dysfunctional, with some of the microphones cutting out somewhat, or entirely, and others being too loud or having loud scratches. Every actor that went on stage had a microphone on them, so they constantly had to switch them between people. The second and third acts fixed the issues with the microphones, having little to no problems during the rest of the performance.

Oak Park High School's adaptation of the iconic GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a very well done and enjoyable show. The show proves that there can be humor involved with such serious issues, like selling your engagement ring to a pawn shop. We feel bad for the gentlemen who preferred this blonde.

by Avan Artinger of Belton High School

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THE GIRLS TAKE OVER PARIS

Oak Park High School's Theatre Department fills our evening with laughter when presenting GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES.

This show is full of quirky characters with loads of creative energy. It all starts with Lorelei Lee, your average fun, dumb, blonde and her trusted best friend Dorothy Gilbert. Both girls find themselves in quite a pickle when blondie loses something very important. The two girls get caught up in a mess of romance, crime, and family drama when running away to the city of love.

Kenna Foreman plays the whimsical Lorelei Lee. Her character brings out loud cackles from the audience. Her stage presence and authentic body language bring comedy to life. Christina Oak plays Dorothy Gilbert. Christina never mumbles a word. Her vocal projection, playful facial expressions, and lively attitude keep the audience engaged throughout all three acts. Both girls put together creates great chemistry. They both work together as best friends to fill the room full of laughter.

The supporting role that stole everyone's hearts was the Chambermaid played by Emily Witter. Her French accent is impressive, it left the audience in awe. Her character has depth and a lot of thought put into it. Her individual style sets her apart from the rest of the characters.

Beautiful lights beam down on the stage creating the perfect mood for this romantic comedy. The lighting design will absolutely take your breath away. The bright purples, blues, and greens complement the set and costumes well. There is no doubt that they are indeed in the beautiful city of Paris France. The makeup designs are full of creativity and detail. Every character had their own style. Lorelei was often adorned in pink silks while Dorothy was seen in more mature colors and fashions.

Although the show was creative, there were a few technical difficulties that were noticed. The microphones picked up a lot of backstage talking and whispering. This made it hard to focus on what happened on stage. At times it was hard to understand what the actors were saying. Either the microphones went out and there is no projection, or lines are spoken too fast to understand. There are also a few cues that are either late or missed. The set was painted beautifully and the art hung on the walls was pleasant, but the window had a poor design. It was just a plain black box in the wall. On the other hand, the improv skills of the actors were very impressive. A tea set broke on stage, all actors stayed calm and just incorporated it into their lines, and the scene continued smoothly.

Oak Park High School brought this iconic play to life. The colorful costumes, beautiful lights, detailed makeup, and creative actors came together creating a wonderful show. The evening was full of laughter when watching GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES by Oak Park High School.

by Jalyn Glass of Belton High School

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A NIGHT FULL OF ELEGANCE AND MISHAP

Oak Park High School makes you wish you will not have to sell your own engagement ring in order to be able to see it.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES film initially released in 1953 but was adapted from the 1949 stage musical. Its original cast included Marilyn Monroe or Lorelei Lee. It follows two girls embarking on a journey from Little Rock, Arkansas, all the way to France, and the adventures that ensue on the way.

The character relationship between Dorothy Shaw and Lorelei Lee, played by Christina Oak and Kenna Foreman, is able to drive the show and makes it flow well. The actresses accurately represent how two best friends would behave with each other, hugging and screaming when it would happen in a real conversation. Oak and Foreman carry themselves well for "refined" young ladies looking for a suitable man.

The supporting characters carry an important part in advancing the overall plot of the show, and each one of them strongly shows their characters and the distinct personalities they each have, adding comic relief in stressful situations. With Madi Wells as Aunt Dolly, the role of the feminist aunt who does not want her niece to settle down with a nice man, Mrs. Spoffard, played by Reese Hill, and her protective "companion" Miss Chapman, played by Nina Kutensky, add humor in places, and lighten the overall mood.

There is strong attention to detail, from the costumes to the props, to the special lighting. The costumes, designed by Brenden Blue and Kylie Valencia, never cease to be well put together and thought out, with the matching costumes between Henry and Lorelei, and all of the different dresses being thrown around in the opening scene where Dorothy and Lorelei are packing for their trip. The props, designed by Sarah Ealey, are also flawless in the addition they have to the show. There are many scenes with a large number of props, but they appear to be in the right spots and are true to the time period. Levi McKinney on lights also delivers lighting to help add dramatic effect when needed.

Although the accents are accurate for the setting of the majority of the show, they are, at times, hard to understand. The accents are, however, amusing to listen to and add an accuracy to that part of the show that helps it feel more real. The sound has some problems at the beginning, but they did an amazing job of fixing all the problems and the rest of the show went off flawlessly.

Oak Park High School executes their performance of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES in a funny and lighthearted way, despite all the drama that happens throughout the show. But beware, only the finest of people may be able to understand this show.

by Jasmine Corlew of Belton High School

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BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN

Jazz music fills the space as the lights dim on the audience on a rainy February night. Love, mischief, and mayhem are in the air as the curtains open on a dazzling picture of the 1920s in full swing. Ladies and gentlemen alike sit back in their seats to absorb the comedic tale of two young women comes to life on the stage, transported back to a time a century before our own. Oak Park High School's presentation of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES has begun.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a classic tale of two young women traveling abroad in search of an education and a man, more or less in equal measure. When the two realize that they've forgotten the money that they need in order to travel in comfort, the two are forced to borrow money from fellow passengers on their luxury cruise liner. The hilarity that ensues has been enjoyed by audiences young and old for decades. The play was first performed in 1926 and has since gone on to be adapted into a Broadway musical and a classic film starring Marilyn Monroe.

Kenna Foreman enchants the audience as the loveable, airheaded character of Lorelei Lee. Her breathy tones and physicality go miles to further the girlish and whimsical lady that plucks at the heartstrings of Henry Spoffard III, played by Jordan Green. Green is boyish and charming in his portrayal as a young millionaire, clueless in what it means to truly love someone. The two have flirtatious energy between them that makes the chemistry between them believable.

The costumes of this show, designed by Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia, are dazzling in the glitz and glamour that they bring to the stage. From the very beginning of the show, the costumes simultaneously further the character of each person onstage and stays true to the flapper styles of the 1920s. From Lorelei Lee's classic pink dress to Dorothy Gilbert's striking green pants, every scene of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES features phenomenal costume pieces that greatly contribute to the air of the show as a whole.

Any live show has the potential for mishap, and this show was no exception. There truly is no blame to be had, and it is in the nature of live theatre for things to go wrong. From broken teapots to microphone issues, the cast seamlessly continues the show while adapting to overcome the momentary problems. One actress, in particular, leaped into action after a small tea set fell during a scene; Emily Witter, in her role as Chambermaid, took it in stride and continued the scene while attempting to clear the shards. It is through adversity that the talent both onstage and off shows their skill.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES at Oak Park High School is a charming production of a play that has been dazzling audiences for the better part of a century. This classic tale lives on as an enjoyable tale of comedic pizazz and as a glowing reminder of the nature of the theatre to overcome drama, both intended and accidental, past, present, and future.

by Sarah Coupland of Belton High School

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THE GUEST DON'T HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CRYING ABOUT IN THIS SHOW

As you enter the theater of Oak Park High School you are transported into Paris, and love is in the air with the production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES.  The high energy keeps you watching to see what is going to happen next.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES opened on Broadway September 28, 1926, and closed March 1927, with a total of 199 performances. There is also a musical adaptation with the same name. It was written by Anita Loos and John Emerson. Marilyn Monroe starred in the famous film version.

Kenna Foreman portrays Lorelei Lee as an upbeat and sassy blonde. Foreman brings personality to the character that lights up the stage. She gets you to invest in the character, which is important for a show. Jordan Green as Henry Spoffard the third brought out the comedic side to this character. Green's ability to convey his facial expressions adds personality to the show.

Aunt Dolly, who is portrayed by Madi Wells, is a character to love. She has the energy that when she is present on the stage you cannot help but love her. The protectiveness that Aunt Dolly feels toward Lorelei is perfectly conveyed. Reese Hill, who portrays Mrs. Spoffard brings a certain upbeat innocence to the character. Hill also has moments of diversity as well, that round out her character nicely.

The costumes, by Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia, fit the characters personality perfectly, in addition to the time period. There was also color coordination between Lorelei and Henry that added a connection to the characters and was a beautiful way to show that. The props, done by Sarah Ealey, brought out the details on the set. The ability to transforn the same set and make it look completely different with the props is simply amazing.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES brought down the stereotypes, showcased love, and showed that if it is meant to be you will fight through the obstacles. Overall, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a heartwarming show that will have you leaving Oak Park High School with a smile on your face.

by Shelly Simily of Belton High School

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LORELEI AND DOROTHY TAKE ON THE CITY OF PARIS

Oak Park High School presents a funny, witty and incredibly nutty production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. This production exudes amazing comedic timing, unique characterization and amusing plot. Spoffard's and Lee's alike would enjoy this production.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a play of three acts of the 1925 novel written by Anita Loos. It was adapted by Kristen Segel. It is a story of two best friends who embark on a French cruise. Lorelei Lee, fun and diamond-loving blonde, and Dorothy Shaw, a sensible yet lively brunette, have to figure out ways to get out sticky situations. It is most famous for its 1953 film adaptation starring Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell.

The role of the bubbly, blonde Lorelei Lee is played by Kenna Foreman. Foreman plays the lovable gold digger with grace and ease. She takes what she is given and makes the stage come alive. She leaves you with the feeling as if you were immersed in the show. With excellent comedic timing and consistently high energy, Foreman proves to the audience that she is Ms. Lorelei Lee.

Reese Hill, who portrays the comical role of Mrs. Spoffard, is a scene stealer. She has the most amusing facial expressions. Her line delivery has no flaws and she always seems to make you laugh. Every time she is on stage, you wonder if she will say or do anything wackier than what she said or done before. While somehow maintaining character the entire time she is on, she steals the show. Another person who left you with your sides hurting from laughter was Emily Witter who portrays the part of the zany Chambermaid. She works amazingly with any actor she shares a scene with. She always is great at not letting any problem affect the show in any way. She takes over with ease when a tea kettle accidentally falls over and breaks in the midst of the fun and wild things happening on stage.

The set for this production was incredibly universal and made the different settings clear while still using the same set. It was beautifully designed and built by Joseph Lunares and Ashton Mychalzuk. Another great technical aspect was the costumes, which were absolutely gorgeous, The costumes were done by Kylie Valencia and Brendon Blue stayed true to the period and worked very well with the characters. One costume that really shines is the beautiful satin blue dress elegantly worn by Christina Oak, who hilariously portrays the part of Dorothy Shaw.

The sound does an overall amazing job. Although there were times when the microphones were so loud, it would make the speaker make a really weird and loud sound that would spook the audience, and times where the microphones were a bit too quiet and you couldn't hear the actor. These acute problems did not affect the show heavily. The actors and crew alike worked through the problems and effortlessly put on a great show.

Oak Park High School shows the audience that they can execute comedy superbly. GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES leaves you with the message, "Always keep the receipt!"

by Sheridan Mirador of Center High School

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TAKE YOUR IMAGINATION ABROAD

The 1920s was called "roaring," and quite deservingly. Jazz, socialites, parties; the lives of the rich were interesting and full of splendor. No play exemplifies the times with its character acting, impressive design, and vigorous energy, as well as GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES by Oak Park High School.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is originally a novel written by Anita Loos in 1925 about two young American socialites Lorelei and Dorothy going on a supposed educational trip to Paris. After spending all of their money, not even halfway through their voyage to Europe, they have to deal with lack of money and unintentionally falling in love. The show has undeniable energy to it. They were having fun doing the show and they infused that into almost every aspect. It is well-designed and well-acted, and the outcome was extremely pleasing.

The leads take the stage with great tenacity, most notably with Kenna Foreman's performance as Lorelei Lee. She owned the stage with every scene, her characterization of a 20's flapper generates lots of laughs and helps genuinely connect the character. The fellow lead of Christina Oak as Dorothy Gilbert is impeccable, her onstage chemistry with Lorelei Foreman is entertaining and enthralling.

While the leads take the stage, the supporting roles contribute to the proverbial melting pot of this show, with a great note of Reese Hill's performance of Mrs. Spoffard. The performance of the near-senile old woman is frankly hilarious, and her presence is always known even if she is not the center of attention. While only in a single scene, Sammy Abu Namous and Jacob Collier as the Broussards are a complete riot. Their onstage antics are captivating, from Broussard, Sr. hitting Jr.'s hat off to his bushy mustache and his outrageous accent.

The crew in this production is not without merit. The set design of the room led by Joseph Lunares is realistic and additionally well-composed; the furniture positioning allows for motivated stage movement and the chandelier is a nice touch. Additionally, the costume choices by Brendan Blue and Kylie Valencia are period-appropriate and appealing to the eye. Primarily the choices of costumes for Lorelei Foreman and Dorothy Oak reflects the flapper culture of the 1920s with their flair.

The production has some technical difficulties, but the actors manage to push through it with projection and characterization that makes the entertainment value of the show skyrocket. While dead air did pervade some moments, the energetic and comedic lines turn those scenes into practical laugh factories.

This show was creative and inspired, making it a show worth seeing again. The actors' and crew's work paid off by presenting a show that encapsulates such a fascinating time period with impeccable acting, set design, costume choice, and overall energy presented by the actors. In short, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES by Oak Park High School is a pleasing show that is sure to galvanize anyone's appreciation for theatre.

by Alex Kroenke of Grain Valley High School

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YOU CAN'T HELP IT

From Little Rock to Paris, the bustle and thrill of the Jazz Age come to life with flapping dresses and revelrous adventures. The roaring 20's hold just as much exhilaration as Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES.

At first, a comedic novel that was adapted into a play and musical, and then into a movie starring Marilyn Monroe, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES was originally written by Anita Loos and published in 1925. The three-act story follows two American girls as they travel to Europe for education, but end up losing their money and becoming deliberately enveloped in love interests.

Kenna Foreman plays our leading lady, Lorelei Lee, with a sassy flick of the hand and shimmy of the shoulder. A ditsy yet lovable character is shown through Foreman's performance with her line deliverance and steady stage presence. Sharing the platform with her is Christina Oak, who portrays Dorothy Gilbert, a dependable and amusing friend who twiddles her fingers at every goodbye. Utilizing her squeaky voice and movement (such as stuffing money in her shirt) Oak is a humorous force, showing off the chemistry between her and Foreman.

Jordan Green plays an intriguing gentleman, Henry Spoffard III. With a sigh and dramatic pose to the thought of being poor, Green brings an entertaining personality to the stage. Presenting his mother, Mrs. Spoffard, Reese Hill is a sweet treat to the show, delivering her older character with slow ease as she reaches for imagined pastries and expresses lively facials. Despite not being on stage for long, Mykalia Wishcropp plays the Porter who hilariously brings in a piece of large luggage on her back, falling down due to its heaviness. She continues her comical presence by thanking Dorothy (Oak) for a generous tip, by falling down and kissing her arm in admiration; one small highlight of the show.

The time frame wouldn't be complete without the costume crew, which is managed by Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia. Styling the stage with a dazzling green flapper dress and sparkling diamonds, the crew did well to present a lavish lifestyle, even with professional all-white sailor costumes. The set crew, led by Joe lunares, displayed detailed paintings that were changed for different settings, along with an exquisite hanging chandelier. Despite a long wait in between scenes, due to a full costume change, every time the lights went up, the actors did well to stay in character. There was some dead air at the end of each scene, but the lighting crew, operated by Levi McKinney, took an interesting approach by utilizing the spotlight on the highlighted characters to capture their emotion.

Whether it be by train, boat, or taxi, you'd have no sense but to see Oak Park High School in their production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. If you are anything like Lorelei Lee, you just won't be able to help it.

by Erin Gillihan of Grain Valley High School

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BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN

Imagine a nice trip to Paris with your best friend to improve both of your educations. More likely going to Paris in search of the right guy. In Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES, Lorelei and Dorothy find out this trip may be more trouble than what it's worth.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is based on the book of the same title, written by Anita Loos. With a plot revolving around two young women being young and how they like to say it, "more refined than your average flapper," they both desire to travel to "improve" their education. However, it is more in the pursuit of love, even though they don't have the proper funds for this summer trip.

These two lovely ladies are Lorelei Lee and Dorothy Gilbert (Kenna Foreman and Christina Oak). The two of them get into more shenanigans than you can keep up with, which never leaves a dull moment between the two. They have incredible on-stage chemistry, bouncing off one another, creating hilarious and unforgettable moments throughout the show. Ms. Foreman brings the character to life with her mischievous nature, which always ends up getting the two characters into more trouble. While Ms. Oak's character tries to fix the messes they created, only for it all to burst into flames. Leaving the other characters of the show wondering... are they really criminals?

This is a story about love, so who would be our love interest? That would be Henry Spoffard III (Jordan Green). Green gives his character a cheeky persona, due to having more wealth than what he knows what to do with. He nails his iconic poses that set up quite comedic moments, which his Mom gets a kick out of. Speaking of his Mom, Mrs. Spoffard (Reese Hill) never has a dull moment on stage. With her dazed facial expressions and her stage business, she is always setting up a laugh.

The costumes truly bring us back to the period of flappers. With their short flashy dresses and their jewelry that would make anyone blush, the Costume Managers (Brendon Blue and Kylie Valencia) truly dazzled us back to the 20s. Another interesting thing is the lighting Crew (Levi McKinney) would give a spot to a character when the scene was over and fade the lights. This was a very unique and creative way to end the scenes. The set is also approving with their additions of real paintings, beautifully giving a grasp on how rich the characters are.

There are times when you can't really hear the actors, however, those times were very short. As well as some dead air being noticed, the actors created believable stage business to keep the show moving. The actors were always on their toes creatively, to keep the show advancing.

All in all, Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a humorous roller coaster that will leave you giggling in your seat due to all the mischief and misunderstandings. Leaving you to wonder, "Am I really refined?"

by Spencer White of Grain Valley High School

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WHAT A GEM

Full of love, laughter, a brazen blonde, a bold brunette, and beautiful bling, Oak Park High School performs GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. With this performance, romance is in the air and chaos is seemingly around every corner. The audience is left on the edge of their seat questioning - what is going to happen next?

This 1925 slapstick comedy written by Anita Loo, was first introduced in Times Square Theater. The story follows two brave young ladies, Lorelei Lee, and Dorothy Gilbert, as they cross the great Atlantic to find the only thing they need&#65533; a man. Throughout their journey, they discover love is not all that a girl needs. On their way, they grow and learn the single most important lesson of all, that "diamonds are a girl's best friend!"

From the moment Lorelei Lee, portrayed by actress Kenna Foreman, steps on stage her energy is up to her quirkiness and spunky personality shines through. Kenna Foreman captivates the audience with her zany excitement and constant love-stricken awe. Foreman brings sass and a class from the time she enters all the way until the lights drop with blonde moments that are carefully and hilariously portrayed. Her character is perfect to contrast her best friend Dorothy Gilbert, portrayed by actress Christina Oak. The chemistry between the two is electrifying as they consistently butt heads with their hysterical squabbles and disagreements.

What supported this outstanding performance was not just the two leading ladies, but the supporting characters as well. Mrs. Spafford, portrayed by Reese Hill, was delightfully amusing. Hill brought a new light to an old character performing her with a childlike enthusiasm that was charming and one could not help but adore her. Though not in it for long, she never failed to steal the spotlight if not only for a moment.

Of course, what helped create the show was not just the cast but the talented crew as well. They impressed the audience both with what they put on stage and what they did off stage. The costume crew designed stunning and brightly colored gowns that capture the characters personalities as well as the tone of the scene. The costume crew also impressively pulled off quick costume changes several times throughout the show. Their speed and preparation stands out and is astonishing.

Though there was one technical error with a prop, the actors quickly adjusted and warmly welcomed the obstacle with their quick thinking and clear improvisational talents.

Oak Park High School puts on a masterful performance in GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES with unrestrained laughter. Come see this wonderful show that you will never forget. This show is a gem that stays with audiences for long after they see it, because after all "diamonds are forever."

by Victoria Seever of Grain Valley High School

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LADIES AND GENTS TAKE YOUR SEAT

Oak Park High School is bringing back the good ol' days with one of Marilyn Monroe's hits. This weekend, they perform GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES by Anita Loos. Oak Park High School sets a nice impression because of the detailed set with a dangling chandelier right out front. The audience sits and waits expectedly for the show to start as they feel submerged in the stylistic paintings all around the auditorium.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a play based off of the book by Joseph Fields and Anita Loos. Lorelei and her best friend, Dorothy travel to Paris together, however, they, unfortunately, lose the money their father gave them for the trip. She falls in love with a rich man named Henry Spoffard, but with great fear and caution of the accusation of being a gold digger. The reason why this title is so famous is because the role of Lorelei was played by Marilyn Monroe in the film adaptation.

The leads in the show include Lorelei and Dorothy. Lorelei played by Kenna Foreman is the one who brings this role to life. She emotes beautifully in every way. Unfortunately, this causes many members of the audience to be gasping, laughing, and sobbing all over the place- but that is secretly a good thing! Foreman makes the character relatable and real.

Although all the actors were worth mentioning, the other undeniable lead is Dorothy Gilbert, played by Christina Oak. Her energy on stage is such a nice change compared to the hopeless situation. She makes every line she has memorable. Oak is easily the star of the show, even though she is a supporting character.

The best part of the technical aspects is the lighting. This is all thanks to Levi McKinney. The lighting has a beautiful array of colors and ends every scene with a soft blue spotlight to emphasize the "old-timey movie" feel. The lighting booth never misses a cue thanks to their stage manager, Elaina Shalabi. Another notable aspect is the costumes. The costumes designers Kylie Valencia and Brendon Blue do an amazing job of sending the audience back in time. They look like they are actually from the 1950s and not only that, but each one is so different. Not to mention how many quick changes there are to be performed by Emily Morrison and Jordan Green with precision. From the beautiful blue silk dress to the posh fur coat, costume crew does a wonderful job sewing the show together.

The actors did a great job with this show, however, at points where there was not much action, and the scenes seemed to drag. However, as soon as the action started up again, the energy and pace were right back up.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES really takes root in people's hearts. The show is happy, sad, and funny all in one. Oak Park High School achieves the comical elements, recreating all the original charm of the film.

by Gracie Heath of Lee's Summit West High School

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BLONDES HAVE THE MOST FUN

The stage is set. A soft lull of music dances through the air, as Oak Park High School proudly presents Anita Loos' GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES, by Anita Loos, originated as a movie starring Marilyn Monroe, and was adapted into a play.

The stunning lead of the play, Lorelei Lee, is played by none other than the dazzling Kenna Foreman. She brings wondrous energy and presence to the stage as she portrays Monroe's character. With an innocent charm that no other can match, she steals the show. Her counterpart, Henry Spoffard III, played by Jordan Green, brings some crackling chemistry to the stage. His over the top motions show some amazing variety in the different actors who grace the stage.

While she isn't the lead, Dorothy Gilbert, played by Christina Oak, never fails at being Lorelei's faithful friend. She leaves the audience giggling in delight with her wonderful delivery of the quippy lines she is blessed with having. Another astounding supporting role is Mr. Lee, portrayed by Christian Manning. He plays a good mix of both comforting and stern when placed in the role of Lorelei's Father. Also, as it shouldn't go unnoticed, the chemistry the father-daughter duo have is absolutely delightful and is something that almost all audience members can relate to.

The technical aspects of any show are extremely difficult to do, especially when it comes to finding time period props and costumes. That is why it's so impressive that Oak Park High School really hits it out of the park. The dazzling gemstones and sequins on the flapper, 20's style dresses really capture the audience's attention, and the props are so fitting, it takes a minute to remember that they are simply props in a show and not the real thing.

While the actors do an impressive job projecting, the microphones tend to have problems cutting in and out, but the technicians roll with the punches and have the problems nearly fixed. Also, while the scenes are captivating, the set changes feel a tad lengthy and can take the audience out of the scene. There may be a few problems within the show, but nothing the cast and crew cannot handle as they go from scene to scene.

Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is really a big hit with the audience. Their energetic performance proves that blondes really do have the most fun.

by Shanna Sinow of Lee's Summit West High School

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NOT JUST ANOTHER DUMB-BLONDE STORY

The lights dim. The curtains open. There stands a blonde and a brunette, packing for a trip. Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES has begun.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES became popular in 1953 with the release of the movie starring Marilyn Monroe as the title role. It covers the story of Lorelai, a blonde, hopeless romantic, who travels to Europe with her best friend Dorothy. It was originally based off of a book which then turned into a play, and eventually became a movie and a musical.

Kenna Foreman (Lorelei Lee) sets the stage and allows the audience to follow her on her journey to find a "refined" gentleman, with plenty of dumb blonde moments included. Christina Oak (Dorothy Gilbert) also hitches along for the ride. The two play off each other nicely and the chemistry between the two best friends is very well done. Jordan Green (Henry Spoffard III) also provides a convincing performance in his over-dramatic moments, and in his quiet, more laid-back scenes. Reese Hill (Mrs. Spoffard) perfects her motherly character and has mastered the mannerisms of an old rich woman. Her humorous background moments catch the audience's eye and make them laugh.

Two characters that bring excellent comedic timing at the beginning of Act 3 are Broussard Senior, and Junior, played by Sammy Abunamous and Jacob Collier. Their quips in French are on-point and they provide many laughs for the audience. Also included in this is Colby Johnson (Sam). He captures the egotistical, obnoxious character that Sam is and plays it at just the right moments. Zen Langley (First Steward) also commits all of his time on-stage to portraying his character in the best way.

Kylie Valencia, Brendan Blue, Emily Morrison, and Jordan Green do an exceptional job with the costumes. Each character's costume perfectly represents them, and all of them are time-period appropriate. The attention to detail is stunning and brings the show together quite well. Plus, all of the quick-changes are done with impressive speed. Another thing that is quick are the set changes, organized by Elaina Shalabi. Less time spent in the dark is always a good thing, and Elaina makes sure the changes are done with efficiency.

Although the show runs very smoothly, there is an issue with the sound. Some microphones are turned on in wrong places, and some are not turned on when they need to be. Also, the sharp noises caused by microphones are very prominent. Besides these few quips in the show, the sound booth fixed it very quickly and the problems are forgotten about soon after.

Oak Park High School puts on a comedic show full of misunderstandings with GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES which is sure to make you leave with a smile on your face.

by Ashtin Umstattd of Park Hill High School

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AMOROUS ANTICS

The stage lights rise upon the face of the idealistic but hopelessly naive Lorelei Lee, in Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES premiered on Broadway in 1926, produced by Edgar Selwyn and written by Anita Loos and John Emerson. The play was based on the 1925 novel of the same name, and it was later developed into a stage musical. The story follows two girls, Lorelei Lee, and Dorothy Gilbert, as they unceremoniously stumble into France in search of romance. Shenanigans ensue as the girls get themselves into increasingly sticky situations with their short-sighted plans and ridiculous theatrics.

Kenna Foreman plays the lead role of Lorelei Lee and uses her exuberant attitude and evocative body language to portray her scatterbrained, naive character wonderfully. Christina Oak, who plays Dorothy Gilbert, uses a wide array of expressions and gestures to accentuate her acting, which allows her to expertly deliver comedic lines and dialogue. The two actors have great chemistry with each other, and they use their respective talents to highly elevate the quality of their act.

Jordan Green plays the part of Henry Spoffard III and refines his performance via the use of numerous comedic quirks. Reese Hill, who plays Mrs. Spoffard, brilliantly portrays her characterization by exuding a jovial demeanor and responding to her surroundings with appropriate delight. Nina Kutensky plays Miss Chapman, the major villain of the play. Her serious, apprehensive disposition is never lost throughout the production, which sets her up as a great foil for the lead role.

The set, designed by Joe Lunares and Ashton Mychalczuk, is noticeably detailed, with pastel walls that are adorned with vibrant paintings, and furniture pieces that encapsulate the 1920s style of the show. Furthermore, the costumes, designed by Kylie Valencia, Brendan Blue, Emily Morrison, and Jordan Green, are incredibly varied and period-appropriate, with colorful accents and sparkling accouterments. The stage crew, consisting of Franni Young and Kyrie Leistico, should also be commended, as the set changes and costume changes between scenes occurred expediently and effortlessly.

While the show does occasionally suffer from technical sound issues, the actors do a fantastic job of compensating for it by utilizing body language to better convey the meaning of their lines.

Oak Park High School's production of GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a thrilling and harrowing experience full of comedy, mischief, and japes. Every twist, turn, and revelation is sure to vicariously cause both anxiety and hilarity in this tale of love and drollery.

by Cooper Sturm of Park Hill High School

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DIAMOND RINGS AND LARGE MUSTACHES

Blonde hair, pink dresses, diamonds and&#65533; a large mustache? Well, it must be GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES from Oak Park High School, a comedic play that will be sure to knock your socks off, and remind you to keep your diamond rings on.

Originally published as a book in 1925, Anita Loos used the novel's fame to adapt it into a Broadway play that ran in 1926-1927. In 1949, she adapted it into a musical, which spawned the famous 1953 movie musical that starred Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell of the same name. In 1958, Kristin Sergel adapted the novel into a three-act play that would eventually be performed at Oak Park High School.

Kenna Foreman and Christina Oak star as Lorelai Lee and Dorothy Gilbert, two 18-year-old girls, fresh out of school and ready to take on the world. Their chemistry as close friends is a key part of the show, and the actresses do a fantastic job of portraying the sister-like relationship throughout each act. They own their character's stereotypes - Dumb Blonde and Smart Brunette, respectively - in a wonderful way both when they speak and when they don't.

Mrs. Spoffard (Reese Hill) and her son, Henry Spofford III (Jordan Green) are some of the most interesting characters in the show beyond the two female leads. Hill portrays the old mother with warm light and energy and makes a strong effort to not only get the audience to laugh but sympathize with someone who no longer has her youth and health but still has her riches. As the young love interest of Lorelai, Green portrays his character with both an attitude of a man in love, and an attitude of a wealthy and respectable socialite. Particularly in later acts, he allows the character to be dramatic in a comedic way as he tries to ensure that the wealth is something he can live without.

Led by Kylie Valencia and Brenden Blue, the costume crew is able to portray the fantastical and moderate lifestyles of the 1920s through the characters. Lorelai's costumes bring out both her wealth and her heart through her beautiful dresses that also reference the 1953 movie. The Broussards, portrayed by Sammy Abu Namous and Jacob Collier are comedic in both their costumes and their actions. Broussard Sr. has a ridiculously large mustache and uses it to portray his superiority over his son.

The only downside one could have with this show is with the microphones, which are occasionally turned on at the wrong time, or not at all. Luckily, the actors on stage do a fantastic job projecting and the sound crew is always very quick to adjust any issues.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a wonderful show that appeals to any age, whether that be through their memory of Marilyn Monroe, or their love of diamonds. It can make you laugh and make you crave adventure. How you respond to it, whether it is yelling in a French accent, "But Papa!" or going to Europe to learn about varying cultures, is up to you.

by Trinity Christofferson of Park Hill High School

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A CUT ABOVE THE REST

The Campy Romantic comedy is a staple of American literature. The use of farce and sentimentality have shaped American culture in its most transformative years in many ways. GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a time tested classic of the genre filled with charm and wit. Oak Park High School's theater department puts such charm and wit on full display.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES was a book originally written in 1925 by Anita Loos. It was written in the height to the infamous jazz age. It was an instant success, leading to a Broadway adaptation in 1926, then a silent film in 1928, a musical adaptation in 1949, and finally, the famous 1953 adaptation starring Marilyn Monroe as the female lead. Oak Park High school is producing a version of that original Broadway show.

The plot of the show revolves around Lorelei Lee, played by Kenna Foreman, and Dorothy Gilbert, played by Christina Oak, taking a cruise ship to France without the permission of Lee's father and their provider, played by Christian Manning. Christina Oak has wonderful chemistry with anyone she is on stage with, and Manning has a commanding stage presence as Mr. Lee. On the boat to France Lee and Gilbert meet  Henery Spoffard III, Mrs. Spoffard, his mother, and their attendant, Miss Chapman, played by Jordan Green, Reese Hill, and Nina Kuentensky respectively. Lee falls in love with Henery, and  Hi-jinks ensue when they become entangled in Paris.  Reese Hill brings true life to the role of Mrs. Spoffard, always being incredibly present on stage and creating a consistent physical and vocal character. Mishaps in Paris resulted in the hiring of two private investigators, Broussard Sr., played by Sammy Abu Namous, and Jr., played by Jacob Collier. Both bring the hilarious slapstick
 in the second and third acts.

The costumes by Kylie Valencia and Brenden Blue are superb. They truly bring the twenties setting to life and serve the needs of the characters wearing them. Another technical high point were the props by Sarah Ealey. Everything the characters needed for the play seemed well constructed and fit perfectly in the setting.

While a large portion of the cast seem to know and be comfortable in their role, there are also a number that seem unprepared, causing dead air and some lackluster delivery, in regard to comic scenes and lines. These problems were not helped by poor sound mixing, resulting in actor's microphones not being active while they were on stage, and being live when they were off, missed sound cues, and multiple very loud feedback spikes in the middle of performance. To the immense credit of the majority of the actors, they are able to play these mishaps off incredibly well. In particular, a mishap with a teapot that was adapted to so well that it came close to blending into the show perfectly.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a charming romp through 1920's society filled with colorful characters and set pieces. It is a cultural landmark in American theater. Oak Park High School does justice to this wonderful and witty play, and their production will have you rolling in your seat with laughter.

by John Wiseman of Raymore-Peculiar High School

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Money, Love, and Extortion

The house of the theatre opens and the air is buzzing with energy, The atmosphere is representative of the time period. The glamour, and extravagance of the roaring '20s are evident in everything from the Lobby to the set. The incredible atmosphere and amazing acting and technical elements all play a part in Oak Park High School's play adaption of the musical GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES, written by Anita Loos, is a musical that follows Lorelei Lee and her best friend Dorothy as they embark on a journey to Europe where they encounter financial problems and must get creative to get themselves out of this bind. Along the way, they face everything from being accused of extortion to pawning off priceless pieces of jewelry.

Kenna Foreman, who played Lorelei Lee, carries the show through her amazing connections with everyone on stage and her impeccable comedic timing. Foreman has an amazing ability to keep the audience captivated whenever she is onstage, something that greatly adds to her character. She shows an amazing understanding of the time period and the zany situations Lorelei gets into

The other half of the female duo, Dorothy Gilbert played by Christina Oak, is just as entertaining. Oaks presence throughout the show adds the sensible person needed to progress the show. She has an incredible use of comedy in every part of the show from interactions with stewards on the ship to conversations with Aunt Dolly (Madi Wells).

Emily Witter as The Chambermaid gives the show multiple hilarious interactions with everyone she speaks to. Witter also displays a wonderful understanding of the show and showcases a rare ability to react to mistakes on stage and play them off as if no mistake occurred.

The Props in the show, done by Sarah Ealey, Hayden Geary, and Nina Kutensky, are beautifully done and fit the time period. The Costuming, managed by Brenden Blue and Kylie Valencia, are outstanding. They are completely representative of both the time period and the characters personalities.

Publicity for the show was done by Kylie Valencia. Valencia was able to capture the fun comedic nature of the show in the programs and posters. The designs are simple but very effective and encapsulating of the show.

The show, as a whole, is colorful, fun and funny. That is not to say that the show is perfect, however, Because the show is set partially in Paris, France a number of the characters are equipped with French accents. The accents across the board have a tendency to obstruct the words being said. There are also a number of missed, or late, light and sound cues, but that is made up for in the physical comedy and reactions that all of the actors show throughout the pay.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES is a hilarious show that gives an insight into the glamour of the roaring '20s and the humor of insane situations. Oak Park High School's show showcases that which is love friendship and extortion.

by Molly Loman of Raymore-Peculiar High School

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