

Corona del Mar's "Puffs" is stupefying

written by Lani Jacobson, a junior at Laguna Hills High School

The sorting hat has spoken- Corona del Mar High School's production of "Puffs" will go down in history. While the classic "Harry Potter" story is world renown, "Puffs" tells the same tale from the Puff's (Hufflepuff's) point of view. Though often considered the least clever house, "Puffs" highlights the little moments where its members show unbeknownst bravery. Throughout their years at Hogwarts, three unlikely best friends, Wayne, Megan, and Oliver, learn to love being Puffs and recognize that "while it's nice to be important, it's more important to be nice."

Arya Samini is lovable as Wayne. His energy is never failing and stands for the true spirit of a Puff. Starting as a Harry Potter wannabe and realizing he should wannabe himself, Samini also shows a dynamic arc. This stays true for Megan (Alyssa Arbogast), too, his edgy best friend. Though she starts out as abrasive and closed off, by the end, she lets go of her pride and even opens up to love with the ultimate nerd, Oliver, played by Lucas Phillips. Together, they perfectly portray the right balance of awkward yet adorable teenage chemistry.

The ensemble of "Puffs" is wand-erful. With almost every actor playing anywhere from two to five characters, each character contrasts the other greatly, thus showing their range and making each part more distinguishable. One standout performance is Savannah Harper as Bippy, whose death brings unmatched drama and comedy at the same time. All in all, the characters in the Puff ensemble shine individually and as a group.

The lighting is simply spellbinding. Done by Alexandra Lee, it transports one from flashy, sporadic storms to Christmas time. With 300 light cues, the lighting does everything from creating location differentiation through a single spotlight to representing the house each student is admitted into by projecting its matching color. Overall, each lighting choice effectively complements its corresponding scene.

Designed by Sierra Stoliar, the costumes are enchanting and totally rad. Pieces such as hand painted denim overalls, skirts blinged out with hot pink stars, and combat boots bring the 90s era to life. While some costumes, like Megan's, start out all black, her transformation is personified as she ends the show wearing pops of yellow, the color of her true house.

Ultimately, "Puffs" is nothing short of a puff-ect experience for all muggles.