

You'll be tickled pink at Godinez Fundamental's Legally Blonde

written by Bella DeMarco, a sophomore at Tesoro High School

After being dumped by her long-term boyfriend, Warner (Ramy Alhawari), for not being serious enough, Elle Woods (Damaris Rivas) takes matters into her own hands. Working diligently to be admitted into Harvard Law School alongside Warner, she attempts to become the astute girl she thinks he wants. Trying to change for Warner, this pink-obsessed sorority girl learns to embrace herself and accomplishes more than she ever imagined possible.

Damaris Rivas plays a hilarious Elle Woods. Rivas consistently speaks with a bubbly voice and a bright smile, complementing Elle's personality beautifully. Revealing her versatility, Rivas displays authentic heartbreak when Warner proposes to another woman, clutching her heart and singing softly. Whether in heartbreak or joy, Rivas often makes a comical high-pitched and prolonged squeal.

Diego Gonzalez portrays a lovable Emmett Forrest. Gonzalez magnifies his character's adorable nature with a beaming smile whenever he sees Elle. Letting his character's love for Elle shine through, Gonzalez stunningly sings about his happiness for her when the professor starts taking her seriously, eyes joyful and clinging her resume to his heart. When Elle decides to leave Harvard in the melancholy song **Legally Blonde**, Gonzalez reveals an emotional side as he furrows his brow and gently presses his head against Elle's door.

Commanding the stage, Anikka Chavez delivers a strong performance as Brooke Wyndham, an exercise video coach accused of murder. Chavez impressively sings powerfully in *Whipped Into Shape*, even while jumping rope and actively working out onstage. Never failing to bring a vehement presence, Chavez upholds a strong stance with her hands on her hips and chin up.

As Dewey, the slimy ex-boyfriend of Elle's friend, Paulette (Isabella Perez), Jorge Requena adds further comedy to the production. When Paulette is attempting to take back custody of her dog, he trudges out with his shoulders slumped and stomach forward, raspily yelling. Trying to impress Elle, Requena hilariously switches off his lazy character by puffing out his chest and holding his head high.

Stage manager Maria Arroyo executes cues seamlessly. Despite the continuous nature of the show, Arroyo conducts set cues efficiently without distracting from the scene in front. Lighting and sound cues are always precise, never missing a beat.

With an energized and beaming cast, Godinez Fundamental's production of *Legally Blonde* reminds us that with hard work and dedication, anyone can rise up to accomplish their dreams.