

Newsies at San Juan Hills: Read All About It!

Jan. 26, 2020

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Amongst the towering scaffolding of New York, newsboys scamper the streets selling their papers, simply trying to make enough money to survive. When newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer increases paper prices for the newsboys, leader Jack Kelly unites the gang to go on strike and fight for fairer conditions. Brimming with boisterous actors and brilliant tech, San Juan Hills' Newsies is certainly front page material.

Leading the performance and the pack is longtime newsie Jack Kelly (Michael Liebig). Liebig opens the show with the emotional 'Santa Fe', his smooth voice filled with longing for the western city. Infuriated when he learns of the fee raise for newsies, he rallies the group in 'The World Will Know', arms firmly at his side and eyebrows furrowed, honestly portraying his indignation.

Adjacent Liebig, Grant Halliburton seizes the spotlight as newcomer newsie Davey. With a clear voice and coherent intonation, Halliburton successfully establishes his character's intelligence and apt for leadership. Halliburton also shows considerable vocal skills, beautifully harmonizing with Liebig in 'Once and For All'.

Presley Nicholson brings sass and sincerity to the role of up-and-coming journalist Katherine Plumber. As she determinedly types her article about the newsies' paper strike during 'Watch What Happens', Nicholson's eyes widen at the thought of writing about something so groundbreaking, and her hands fly about as she deliberates having no clue what to do.

All cast members can be commended for their insane agility, particularly the acrobatic dancers of the Newsies ensemble. In the show-stopping 'Seize the Day', the ensemble's excellently-executed leaps and animated, excited expressions make for a vivacious performance.

The set, designed by Skye Fielder and Madeline Halliburton, is impressive for its function and mobility. Composed of two three-story staircase units and a bridge scaffold piece, the set is cleverly rearranged by the Deck Crew throughout the show to communicate different locations, from the theatre to the office to the street.

Additionally, purposeful hair and makeup by Presley Nicholson and Sri Ghosh assists in distinguishing the personality and class of the newsboys. Female newsies wear their hair in ponytails and braids, suggesting their tomboy personalities. All of the newsies' faces and clothes appear smudged with dirt, effectively indicating their lower social status.

As achieved through the efforts of the skilled actors and technicians of San Juan Hills, 'Newsies' is a paper-worthy production.