Jolly Good Shows

By Jayden Bates-Bland

(All photos courtesy of Allie Matsuo)

The first night of Stage Right Productions One Acts kicked off this Friday April 28th. To start off the night, Junior, Hailey Brodnax put on "Murder Well Rehearsed" written by John R. Carroll. For this production, Dylan Mead, Aniah Allison, Addi Helms, Seed Mitchell, Keturah Hays, and Stella Chesser played the leads of this show. Most of these actors and actresses had little to no experience with theater which meant that it was a very exciting and new experience for all of them. This play was following a small theater club as they tried to solve a real murder similar to the one that they had been rehearsing for their play. Overall there was a good amount of humor and a decent amount of laughs. For this being some of their first times I was thoroughly impressed and I am excited to see where they go moving forward. It will be nice to see them in some of the next productions.



The second show of the night was "The Eden Echo" written by Ruth Angell Purkey. This play was put on by Jones Newcomb and it starred Henry Walsh, Miles Ragusa, Sorin Leo, and Jasmine Enneking. In this play, God has gotten rid of all men as they were going to destroy the world and has left only women behind, so, obviously, it was completely put on and performed by people who were not women. This was one of the funnier shows of the night and everyone did amazing to bring the show to life. While it is one of the weirder things I have watched I definitely got a lot of enjoyment from it and I am excited to see what they will do next. All of the performers did amazing to bring the show to life and I am excited to see what Jones Newcomb does next.



The third show was special because it was both written and produced by Alistair Melton-Alsobrook. "Vaguely Threatening Farm Animals" is a story that Melton-Alsobrook has been creating for a while and he said he had plans of turning it into its own comic book series. The cast of this production was Cosmos Sarkissian, Felix Matlock, Savana Dukeminier, Jackson Holmes, Milila Fox, and Aries Forbes. It was



inspired by “Animal Farm” written by George Orwell; this was definitely the most complex and thought through play performed. All of the performers did an amazing job of bringing the show to life and portraying the very detailed characters. Considering the fact that this was written by a student, I think that it was put together and portrayed very well. I am excited to see what happens with it moving forward and as Alistair Melton-Alsobrook assured us, we will be seeing more of it in the future.

The final show of night one was a musical put on by Colin Moran. Moran has had a very long history with theater and this is his fifth year in Golden High School's theater department. Colin Moran chose to put on a musical called “Pellets, Cherries, and Lies" written by Erik Przytulski. This had to have been the funniest show that I saw all night, and possibly the funniest show that I have ever seen. It’s a musical following the story of Pac Man as he has become an addict and he must make the decision between his family and the game. The cast of this show was Henry McBride (Pac Man), Hope Songer (Ms. Pac Man), Jojo Beaber (Junior), Jaelynne Beaber (Sue the Ghost), and Emerie Nausler and Elliot Martinez were the ghost ensemble. Overall, the humor and beautiful singing that was in this production were absolutely amazing. This was one of the more risque things that I have seen put on but I could not stop laughing. Overall, I am very happy to know that this was Colin Moran and Jaelynne Beaber’s final show at Golden because it was an absolute banger and I am very excited to see what everyone else in this short musical will do next.





To start off night two there was a very interesting take on the Abraham Lincoln assassination. “Abe Lincoln and Elvis” written by David J. LeMaster was directed by Eliza Earle and it starred Maddie Miller, Sam Bernal and Dulan Dwyer. In this play, Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth and Elvis Presely were all trying to cover up the fact that Abraham Lincoln was in fact not murdered, and was instead planning an elaborate get away with the help of John Wilkes Booth (played by Dulan Dwyer). Abraham Lincoln, played by Maddie Miller, was very insane and definitely going crazy and overall it was just a really fun time. The chaotic nature of this play was very well noticed and the actors did an amazing job with keeping the audience engaged. Overall I really enjoyed this play and I am very excited to see what all of these performers will do next.



The second act of the night was directed by Madeline Gamblin and it was a very funny play but in a very dark way. “Hotline” written by Cheryl Navo, follows the phone call of a woman (Addi Helms) who is calling a swear hotline for the very first time and can't seem to figure out how to swear; she is talking to someone who is on their first day at the job (Stella Chesser). Overall the humor that was witnessed throughout and the surprising ending really made this one act shine. All of the performers in this piece had also played in a different one act which meant that they had to learn two separate plays at once. That is a great feat, and I think they handled it very well. This was one of the longer plays that were put on so there was a lot to be remembered and it was set up much differently than other plays; for this play, one person is seen on the left of the stage, while the other is seen on the right. They never actually interact; they are completely divided and in totally different areas while still both being on the stage. With all of that in consideration it was put together quite well and executed amazingly. I think that everyone that played in this act is going to do amazing things moving forward and I am excited to see where things go from here.





The final act of the night, and the final one act as a whole, was put on by Gabriella Regusa and it starred Sydney Kitchens and Tucker Casillas. The concept of this performance was very interesting and I think that it was executed beautifully. In this play/musical we jump back and forth throughout time with parts of it taking place in the 50’s and parts of it taking place in the modern era. A woman and a man are both living in the same apartment at different times and they write a song together. Casillas and Kitchens are both very amazing singers and the song that they created was beautiful. I will always be ready to listen to Kitchens sing as it is a wonderful experience and she has an amazing voice. This was Gabriella Ragusas final show as she is a senior and overall I don’t believe that it could have gone any better.



This was my first time ever experiencing the One Acts and I had a very fun time. It is an amazing concept as it allows for all of these seniors to have a final hurrah and newer performers have a chance at playing in something that isn’t as big as the school musical. There are so many benefits to this and I hope to see more of it in the future. I will most definitely be attending the next ones and if you missed these ones make sure you don’t miss out on the next ones. Their next shows will be "All My Sons", "Little Shop of Horrors", "Pippin", and "The Play That Goes All

Wrong". Also make sure to follow @stagerightproductions on Instagram to stay updated on what is happening. They will soon be releasing the next shows and you won’t want to miss it.