



Elf! – Woodgrove High School

Snow is falling, hot cocoa is being brewed, and the Christmas spirit is all around, thanks to Woodgrove High School's production of Elf.

The movie Elf first premiered in 2007, while the musical adaptation premiered on Broadway in 2010. Buddy the Elf is very happy in the north pole, but he doesn't fit in with all the other elves. This is because he isn't an elf at all. He's a human! Can Buddy reconnect with his family, and learn what being a human actually means?

The Hobbs Family, made up of the dad Walter, his wife Emily, and their son Michael, were all amazing on stage. Walter, played by Grayson Rawlings, showed incredible depth in his role, seamlessly transitioning from workaholic dad to loving father. Instead of completely changing the character during this transformation, he kept some character traits the same, leading to a believable and satisfying character arc. Emily, played by Molly Burnett, and Michael, played by Zoe Carter, worked really well with both Micheal and each other. Molly and Zoe had great chemistry, especially in their duet "I'll Believe in You". Both Emily and Micheal had incredible strong vocals, leading to heartfelt moments and incredible harmonies.

Speaking of harmonies, Sarah Gingerich did an outstanding job directing the harmonies for the entire cast. Her work creating practice tracks led to an incredible vocal performance from everyone in the show. In a lot of scenes, background characters sang really enchanting, tight harmonies, which helped the production feel polished. The Nobody Cares About Santa ensemble combined these harmonies with energetic dances and movement. The choreography, done by Caty Jewell and Maggie Bugaj, shined during this ensemble's performance, with creative and unique dances. Finally, there were many great comedic performances in this show. Buddy, played by Matthew Murray and the manager, played by Carter Boogard, shared some great comedic moments together. Both had great comedic timing and landed many difficult comedic moments.

There were many different people that helped the show move in a fluid manner. The stage management team, played by Evelyn Phan, Hunter Carnall and Ryan Wychrij did a great job directing the stage crew to create seamless, quiet transitions. After the stage was set, Sam Torres did a great job utilizing a giant screen on the backdrop of the stage. This screen portrayed many different types of backgrounds, helping to immerse the audience while not getting too much attention. The sets, created by Ace Chavez-

Hood, JJ Curtis, Jacob Siecinski, and Brook Paulin created the same effect, allowing for an engaging experience.

Woodgrove High School did a great job performing Elf. They obviously took to heart Elf's famous saying: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!"

-Ethan King