



Footloose – Stone Bridge High School

It's time to cut loose, as Footloose the Musical was just performed at Stone Bridge High School! This musical gets people doing one thing: dancing!

Footloose originally started as a movie, premiering in theaters in 1984. It was then adapted into a musical in 1998, the same year it was shown on Broadway. It follows Ren McCormack, who has to move to the middle of nowhere, the town of Bomont. This town sounds normal enough, except for one rule; no one can dance! Will Ren be forced to comply, or can he return the groove to Bomont?

As the show started, the costumes, led by Miranda Ridgley, were perfect. These costumes were outstanding in the opening and all the costume changes later. Then the ensemble gets introduced. The ensemble was great, especially with their choreography. Everyone's dances were great, speaking to the proper theme of Footloose perfectly, dance! They managed to sing while dancing, creating delightful harmonies. The ensemble's accents were also impressive, as they never sounded like themselves, adding to the small-town atmosphere.

The star of the show Ren, played by Ayden Brook, was hilarious in his role. His physical comedy helped land every joke he attempted. Whether on roller skates or around the train tracks, Ren shined with his vocals and dancing. His female co-star Ariel Moore, played by Lydia Rouse, had excellent acting skills. She was passionate when acting, creating intense moments in the show that lifted it to new heights. Ren and Ariel had great chemistry, being worthy leads for this production.

Willard, played by Ian Brown, was a great comedic actor. His timing was on point, and his singing, especially in "Mama Says," was on point. His counterpart was the equally talented Rusty, played by Emma Kleinhans. Rusty's vocals stole the show, as her powerful singing in "Let's Hear it For the Boy" swept everyone off their feet. Rusty and Willard had great chemistry together, helping add more depth to the show.

One of the most impressive parts of the show was the run crew. Led by Kylie Jackson and Kyle Beshore, the run crew was highly efficient for a high school production. The run crew had very obviously planned out every single scene change to a tee and practiced each one until they were perfect. The lighting, designed by Riley Seppings, was also well-practiced. The main appeal of the lighting in the show was lighting on specific set pieces, like on the Cross during church scenes, and lighting to represent

graffiti during “Almost Paradise.” The set was ingenious, consisting of a prominent bridge, two moving staircases, and three “Interchangeable flats.” These flats were two four-by-eight blocks of wood attached. This meant that each block of wood could be changed to represent four completely different locations, allowing the show to be filled with more movement.

Overall, footloose was a great show with much heart. The ensemble did great. The acting was realistic, the costumes were alluring, and the tech was thought out and efficient. There’s a time for dancing and a time to watch the incredibly talented production of Footloose at Stone Bridge High School!

-Ethan King