



## **Our Town – Loudoun Valley High School**

Human beings never appreciate life while they live it. However, Loudoun Valley High School's production of *Our Town* can get some people pretty close.

First performed in 1938, *Our Town* takes place in a homely New Hampshire town called Grover's Corner. The play's Stage Manager takes us through the life of Emily Webb and George Gibbs, while introducing us to other characters along the way.

The Stage Manager, played by Victoria Collins, set the tone for all 3 acts, embodying the town's spirit and kept the show moving forward with consistent pacing throughout all of her many monologues. Her use of tone and emotion in these monologues separated the different parts of Emily and George's story in a meaningful way, giving the show an immersive atmosphere that sets the tone for each part of the young couple's relationship. Emily Webb, played by Mia Templeton, and George Gibbs, played by Vaughn Mussmon, matched the Stage Manager's tone, using their explosive chemistry to convey the perfect emotions for every scene. Their use of silence was captivating and built up Emily and George's relationship beautifully.

The entire cast did a great job pantomiming various props and items, especially the milkman Howie Newsome, played by Dylan Steigerwald. The pantomiming of his horse and his milk product he was delivering helped to add a sort of lively atmosphere to every scene he was present. Another element of the show that added to its lively atmosphere was the orchestra. *Our Town* normally doesn't have an orchestra, but Loudoun Valley's own Addison Miller composed her very own soundtrack for the show. Performed with two violins and one cello, the three themes that Addison Miller composed fit perfectly into the show. Never missing a beat, and always on time, the orchestra completely changed the show for the better.

The sound effects, run by Wil Shank, also never missed a beat, playing train whistles and screaming children to accurately show different locations. This helped the audience interpret what was happening on stage. The lights, run by Adela King and Marjorie Young, paired with the lights to transition into and out of different scenes and to punctuate important moments. The entire costume crew did a great job of showing many different types of characters in many situations. The costumes for the deceased were great, showing the transition from scared to content.

Overall, Loudoun Valley's production of Our Town helped to show the joy of the everyday. Even though Grover's Corner is fictional, it definitely seemed real.

-Ethan King