



The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe – Broad Run High School

While Christmas never comes in the White Witch's Kingdom, Christmas came early for all who got to see Broad Run High School's incredible performance of the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe.

When a group of kids in World War 2 England find the magical world of Narnia, they learn of great evil. Can they save Narnia from the evil White Witch and return the rule of Aslan?

The White Witch, played by Hannah Visser, was excellent as the show's antagonist. The gravitas she had while playing the role was crucial to the show's incredible immersion. She presented this gravitas seamlessly, managing the poise of a serious ruler while not being too over the top. The rightful ruler Aslan, played by Katelyn Smith, did great in their role as well. While playing the professor, Katelyn had a lighthearted personality and landed several lines, showing a contrast between good and evil between the two opposing forces in the show.

The entire cast of the show shined when it came to physicality. Whether it was the Witch's wolf henchmen, led by Jack Brodsky, or the animals living in Narnia, physicality was always on point. Two actors who had great physicality together were Lucy, played by Marwa Berrouz, and Mr. Tumnus, played by Yousuf Sarwar. Both Yousuf and Sarwar managed to portray their character perfectly with thought out character movements and habits. They used these character choices to effectively portray a young girl and a scatter-brained Faun. Mr. Tumnus used his scatter-brained character to his advantage, utilizing shock comedy to get well-earned laughs and make every scene he was a part of fun.

The set, created by Morgan Cull and Alexzaiha Castillo, was grand and managed to use the entire stage to their advantage. The central segment of the set rotated, helping the show transition from the real world into Narnia. The set, especially in the Manor, was dressed very well, which added to the show's grand appearance. The special effects, run by Simon Borgnese and Eugene Channell, were incredible. Their use of projections onto the set, as well as miniature projections onto smaller parts of the stage, was impressive and often was a much-needed detail. The stage fighting, directed by Eugene Channell, also did a great job adding much needed detail. Their use of authentic fighting styles led to an incredible performance from everyone who fought onstage.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe from Broad Run High School was a delight to watch, filled to the brim with incredible acting and tech performances. The only thing that I want after seeing the show is a little bit of Turkish delight!

-Ethan King