



## **Tuck Everlasting – Freedom High School**

What would you do if you had eternal life? Would you climb Mount Everest? Explore the world? Get some sleep? Freedom High School's production of Tuck Everlasting gives a new option. Watching their fantastic performance!

Tuck Everlasting was originally a children's book by Natalie Babbitt, which was later adapted for the stage in 2015. Tuck Everlasting focuses on a young girl named Winnie Foster in Treegap, New Hampshire. Running away from her bereaving household, she discovers the Tuck family in the woods and learns their big secret: they can live forever! Winnie then must decide whether living forever is all it's cracked up to be.

When playing Winnie Foster, Lexi Gambardella used her character's background to make detailed character choices. Her decisions onstage helped sell her character's naive, happy-go-lucky attitude. Lexi's singing was breathtaking; no matter the song's difficulty, she sang on time with a great tone. One noteworthy song was "Partner in Crime," sung by Lexi and Maddie Amme, playing Jesse Tuck. Maddie's acting complemented Lexi's, as they managed to match Lexi's childlike wonder while acting more mature. However, the most meaningful duo in the show were Lexi and Sam Yearwood, playing Angus Tuck. Lexi and Sam had stunning chemistry on stage and layered beautiful harmonies in their bittersweet duet, "The Wheel."

It was apparent that Freedom High School prided itself on its show running smoothly. The complex choreography, created by Maggie Crumbliss and Isabella Bivin, was performed without a hitch, telling the story through dance while keeping up with the high-powered orchestra. A highlight of the choreography was the show's intricate tap dancing. The ensemble's tap dancing was in unison, creating breathtaking visual and audible effects. Maggie Crumbliss, playing Hugo, continued the excellence of the show's choreography, performing many remarkable physical feats while singing "You Can't Trust A Man." Another way the show ran smoothly was through the scene and prop changes. The Stage Crew and Management team, made up of Bella Garcia, Courtney Davis, and Sydney Sultanik, moved the many sets in the show quickly and consistently. The set team, composed of Arik Jones, Ethan Yearwood, Kayla Concklin, and Claire Duckett, worked with the stage crew and management to make transportable set pieces by adding wheels to every set piece that moved.

The set team also created very detailed settings for the entire show. One example of the thorough set was the show's central tree. The tree's massive size, impressive texture

detail, and climbability are proof of Freedom's attention to detail. The props, made by Skylar Leonard and Maddie Amme, were also impressively detailed. They put plenty of effort into ensuring every prop used on stage was intricate. At one point in the show, Freedom used realistic rocks for one scene, which showed Freedom High School's commitment to perfection.

Freedom's production of Tuck Everlasting was very thought-provoking. Its message is clear: all good things must come to an end, and prolonging the good things we have can make the good things worse. While it's a bummer that Tuck Everlasting is ending its run at Freedom High School, it was great to enjoy it while it lasted.

-Ethan King