



## **Park View High School - High School Musical**

Wildcats, sing along to Park View High School's production of High School Musical On Stage!

From the mind of David Simpatico, Bryan Louiselle and Matthew Gerrard, High School Musical On Stage takes the classic movie musical and brings it to schools all over the country. In performing this show, Park View was selected as one of the first 23 schools to become a Disney on Broadway School of Excellence. Gabriella and Troy couldn't be more different; Troy is a basketball star, and Gabriella is a genius at math. However, when they meet up at a New Year's party and sparks fly, their lives are both changed for good. Can they finally be themselves by participating in the school musical, or will they be forced back into the status quo?

David Alexander, playing Troy Bolton, had a great physicality. His choreography, especially with the basketball, was fluid; he had control of his body both while dancing and dribbling. Ash Strayer, playing Gabriella Montez, had a jaw dropping voice, starring along with David Alexander in beautiful, poetic numbers. Ash had a wide range of vocal ability, from employing a soft and airy quality in songs lamenting over a loss of trust, to confident belting in songs full of love and excitement. This strong vocal performance helped sell her and Troy's quick rise through East High's theater program, and their ever changing relationship.

The show had many great comedic moments. Ace Heck, playing PA announcer Jack Scott, was excellent in using comedic physicality. Someone announcing over an intercom would usually be more reserved, but Ace's miming of directions and exaggerated gestures helped lighten tensions and create contrast behind the expected student announcer and the newscaster-like persona Ace adapted. Suraya Woody, playing Chad Danforth, created a lot of comedic movements in spite of prop difficulties. At one point in the show, Chad shoots a basketball which missed, rebounded off the stage, and landed in the pit. Instead of panicking, Suraya played it off, turning into a memorable comic moment.

The marketing for the show, handled by Ash Strayer (Gabriella) was great. Despite restrictions placed on them from the School of Excellence program, they planned, designed, and completed a wide variety of Instagram posts and in person events. They created yearbook style advertisements, as well as planning trips to the local elementary school, handing out tickets and making their show known to the community. The

lighting, done by Joni Andrus, Alex Torres and Nour Mandoudi, was great at emphasizing moments. Whenever it was clear, Gabriella and Troy were in love, the sides of the stage illuminated with pink, helping to signal to the audience a step up in their relationship had, or was occurring. They also used party lighting in certain scenes to add to the excitement of certain scenes, such as the pep rally or New Year's celebration.

Park View High School was all in this together during their production of High School Musical On Stage. Whether it was the devotion of the actors, or the usage of different technical elements, the show was definitely one thing: fun. The ability of this troop to create joy in its audience, especially during the shows Megamix, was a highlight. Park View, keep enjoying your performances and keep let us singing along, and match your contagious energy.