



## **Pride & Prejudice – St. Paul VI Catholic**

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a man of good taste, must watch St. Paul IV Catholic's production of *Pride and Prejudice*! This show had everything - great cast, amazing tech, and wonderful manners.

The Novel *Pride and Prejudice* was published in 1813 by English author Jane Austen. It has since been adapted several times, being the inspiration for many movies and tv shows. Janet Munsil's version of the show takes these original source materials, and makes them fit on a theatrical stage. Mrs. Bennet is a mother of five daughters, whom she wishes to marry off to wealthy, high-class suitors. Elizabeth Bennet, one of the older sisters, meets a rich suitor Mr. Darcy, and they both instantly dislike each other. However, when they engage more closely with each other, they might realize the strengths behind each other's faults.

This growth between the characters' relationships were well represented by Maddie Bradford, playing Elizabeth Bennet, and Cameron Herrera, playing Mr. Darcy. At the onset of the show, they created very visible tension through closed body language, sharp tone and a dry delivery of lines while addressing each other. This tension later dissipated, as while Maddie still used her body language to show discomfort, the way both actors delivered their lines shifted to be more kind and emotional to each other. These dramatic choices helped to differentiate emotionally grounded scenes from the wild, very funny comedic moments. These moments were led by Ronan McConville, playing Mr. Collins, and Maddy Renuart, playing Mrs. Bennet. Maddy was a great overbearing mother, as her emotional guilt was effective, and her piercing yells to family members reminiscent of any large, busy household.

How does the set design work around *Pride and Prejudice*'s large, busy household? Sophia Walter incorporated several different aspects from other adaptations in order to make the set realistic to family dynamics, and the time period. An obvious difference can be seen from the Bennet's modest home, with four walls and a few candles, to Lady Catherine's house, a 15 foot-tall behemoth which shows the wealth of each individual quite well. The stage crew, made up of Dante Massarini, Maryn Arseculeratne, Keira Aufiero and Sophia Walter, did an incredible job moving the different aspects of the grandiose set back and forth, making scene changes quick and efficient. The mood was set by Roy Wulf, Karina Velasco, and Ethan Chisholm, playing time period specific music. Roy even played an instrument called the Serpent, which is a rarity now, but was common back then.

The entire show felt like a time-travel adventure to the pre-Victorian age. St. Paul IV Catholic High School should be very proud in their incredible, breathtaking performance of the famous romance, *Pride and Prejudice*.