

The Arts

My Fair Lady - The Musical

Last week, in the twinkling of an eye our Senior School musical made its first formal appearance on the St. Paul's stage and flashed forward to the final curtain call, after nearly a whole term of rehearsals and production preparations. Cast and crew were fervently applauded by our audience and they fully deserve all the praise and commendations for a fantastic job. On behalf of my arts colleagues, I thank the cast and crew and all involved in the production for sharing their talents with such enthusiasm and commitment!

Maria Cristina Pentreath

Head of the Arts & Drama

And in the words of one very famous Professor...

It was only three months ago that we began working on the production, but to me it seems like a lifetime. Being a part of My Fair Lady has become such an integral part of my life that I would excitedly recite lines in everyday conversation and sing some of the songs to myself absent mindedly. A little reluctant at first, if I had known what fun was to come out of this experience, I would have jumped with both feet forward taking on the role of Henry Higgins, and never looked back. What a wonderful, cranky character! And, admittedly, I must confess that the love for the English language is something we both share.

During the first rehearsal weeks, we were all a bunch of strangers, unsure of what was to come, unsure of how to become our characters and unsure of how the play would come together. I, personally, was worried about how on earth I would learn all my lines! As rehearsals progressed, we picked up momentum and, on the way, we grew closer

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as a cast and as friends in spite of our difference in age. I believe I speak on behalf of most, if not all, that My Fair Lady became an outlet for us, a time and place where we could have fun with each other and really devote ourselves to the musical and our characters.

Now that it's over, I cannot help but feel a sense of longing for those late night rehearsals and that overwhelming sense of collaboration. We became a small, odd family. I will always treasure those memories and, if someone were to ask me if I were to do it again, I would say YES! – in a heartbeat.

What I have gained through this production are priceless memories, and the sentiment is immeasurable.

Jaisal Lamba - Upper Sixth pupil
a.k.a Professor Henry Higgins, author of Henry Higgins' Universal Alphabet



Press team review

Opening night, the pressure is on. The empty seats anxiously wait to be filled as 7pm draws nearer and nearer. The line of eager and expectant parents, teachers and pupils grows longer outside the theatre. Any professional director or performer would be on edge. They are presenting months of dedication poured into the script, performance and rehearsals, but the *My Fair Lady* cast and crew emitted an astounding air of calm. They were prepared and ready and this was definitely reflected in the performance. Ana Luiza became Eliza Doolittle on the stage, and she absorbed the audience with her incredible performance. Her enthusiastic and energetic rendition of the character was impressive on a whole new level. Jaisal skilfully portrayed the complex character of Prof. Henry Higgins, expertly spitting out the lengthy, fast-paced lines.

Not only the main characters, but all the cast displayed the best of what St. Paul's has to offer: excellence. Following last year's success with *Oh, What a Lovely War!*, this year's musical was no different in terms of appraisal, and the audience's comments and satisfaction at the end can only reinforce the strength of the arts at our school.

2014 gave us a play, 2015, a musical. What could the Pauleans be planning for 2016? Whatever it is, we are absolutely certain that it will impress us once again.

Flavia Ganzer & Emiliano Rodrigues Jr.
Upper Sixth pupil & Press team arts editor