

Audience 'Puts on a Happy Face' at annual HHS spring musical

Written by Darci Tomky

From the opening strums of an electric guitar to the final bows, HHS drama department's production of the much-loved "Bye Bye Birdie" had audience members hooked.

Viewers couldn't help but laugh at the charming, and at times hilarious, performances last Friday and Saturday, March 25-26 in the HHS auditorium.

Directed by Carla Mayfield with music and piano accompaniment by Pat Wiebers, the annual spring musical took viewers back to the '50s, complete with poodle skirts and the toe-tappin' sounds of rock'n'roll.



Even though she's heartbroken about Conrad Birdie leaving for the army, this teenage girl (Brittney Prottzman) can't help but "Put on a Happy Face" at the musical prompting of Albert (Brian DeBoer).

Veteran actors Brian DeBoer and Ella Stewart set the foundation for "Bye Bye Birdie" as Albert J. Peterson and Rose Alvarez.

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Audience members were drawn in to the ups and downs of their relationship, not to mention their wild schemes for a final publicity stunt before rock'n'roll star Conrad Birdie got sent to the Army.

DeBoer's charming voice carried the part perfectly in songs like "Put on a Happy Face" and "Rosie."

Stewart's loud, beautiful voice was evident in this musical, but a different side of Stewart also came out last weekend at the "Spanish Rose's coming out party" where Stewart's flirtatious character initiated a dance at a men's only club that won't soon be forgotten.

The looks on the faces of Skyler Mayfield, Preston King, Payin Becerra, Jesus Hermosillo and Emanuel Rapp were priceless!



After a fight with Albert, flirtatious Rose Alvarez (Ella Stewart, at right) has a little fun with one of the Shriners (Emanuel Rapp, at left).

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Conrad (left) and his friends (right) are shocked that she gets to kiss Conrad.



Kim Reese (right) is shocked that she gets to kiss Conrad.



Conrad (left) and his friends (right) are shocked that she gets to kiss Conrad.



Conrad (left) and his friends (right) are shocked that she gets to kiss Conrad.

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Senior (left) and junior (right) friends talk to senior (center) during a scene from the musical.

Senior (left) and junior (right) friends talk to senior (center) during a scene from the musical.

Senior (left) and junior (right) friends talk to senior (center) during a scene from the musical.

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sings in "The Telephone Hour."



Brooklyn Park, Minn. Pictures from left: Theater, Brocke Park, Team, Wendee, Bee girls