

Holyoke High School musical cast amazes audience with 'My Fair Lady'

Written by Darci Tomky

□ By George, they've done it! Once again the HHS drama department dazzled the stage in an impressive production of *My Fair Lady*. Audiences witnessed everything from cheering at horse races and waltzing at a ball to endless speech lessons and even a mock bull fight at the March 27 and 28 performances.

□ Director Drew Perego rose to the challenge with his second shot at directing and his first musical. Countless hours of rehearsal and set construction certainly paid off for the young director.



□ A seasoned veteran, Pat Wiebers took charge of the music as she directed and accompanied the young performers. Her piano playing and vocal direction certainly completed the wonderfully orchestrated acting as directed by Perego. Wiebers also organized the costumes including everything from top hats to ball gowns.

□ Blake Mari stepped in to do the lighting, and Bob Heldenbrand ran the sound. Along with Perego, John Durbin, Brittany Durbin and April Perego contributed to the set construction.

□ *My Fair Lady*, with books and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe, is an adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture *Pygmalion*. A magnificent cast of both high school and junior high students took the stage for this musical set in early 20th Century London.

□ Playing the arrogant phonetics teacher, Duncan Brandt took full command of the stage as Professor Henry Higgins. The adventure begins as he happens upon a high strung, uneducated flower girl named Eliza Doolittle, played by Ella Stewart. Higgins makes the mighty claim that with six months of his superior speech lessons he could "pass you off as the Queen of Sheeba."

□ With every "ow" and "gaud," Stewart captured the audience's heart. Her captivating emotions and amazing vocals were the perfect match to Brandt's first-rate acti

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