



AROUND THE PALACE

PRODUCTION OF DISNEY'S

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



2nd | 3rd | 4th February

MUSIC BY
ALAN MENKEN

LYRICS BY
HOWARD ASHMAN & TIM RICE

BOOK BY
LINDA WOOLVERTON

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY
ROBERT JESS ROTH

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

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A Tale as Old as Time

A Student Review

By **Summayyah B**, Year 11

Old Palace's production of *Beauty and the Beast* was a true success. The production embodied the musical and theatrical talent possessed by Old Palace students. Students worked very hard to ensure that they retold this timeless story of romance with authenticity. Audience members were left in awe at the level of professionalism in the production.

Students fully embodied their roles with enthusiasm and it was easy for audience members to be transported into 18th Century France. Memorable performances included Nissi's (Year 11 - The Beast) tear-jerking performance of *'If I Can't Love Her'* and Chitleen's (Year 11 - Belle) angelic, but also spunky, performance of *'Belle'*. Bethany's (Year 13 - Cogsworth) hilarious rendition of her character joined by the charming Amira (Year 8 - Lumiere), lit up the stage with joyous laughter. Thank you to Adjoa's (Year 10 - Maurice) quirky portrayal of her character and for bringing such a brilliant genius alive. With outstanding chemistry and comedic timing, Idara (Year 13 - Gaston) and Sapphy (Year 8 - Lefou) brought a playful mix to the production. A highlight was their performance in the boastful song, *'Gaston'*, sung by the both of them, which brought smiles to the audience's faces. Ria (Year 12 - Mrs Potts), Amber (Year 8 - Chip), Sanjana (Year 9 - Madame De La Grande Bouche) and Megan (Year 11 - Babette) were absolutely perfect and gave stand-out performances in *'Human Again'*. Each and every actor performed wonderfully and brought absolute joy to the audience.

Thank you to the wonderful orchestra that performed with such excellence; every note was played with perfection adding to the joyous experience.

Last, but definitely not least, a big thank you to the featured dancers who performed the wonderful and polished choreography. A personal favourite: *'Be Our Guest'* was performed with such expression and energy.

Finally, a special thanks to the wonderful Ms Berk and Mrs Hargraves for directing such an amazing production. Thank you to Mr Griffith, Miss Orr and Miss Kolpaktchi who were excellent directors for the orchestra and singers. And last but not least a thank you to the head choreographers Ms Khan and Mrs Barber.

Well done to the cast, orchestra and crew of *Beauty and the Beast*. It was a pleasure watching you rehearse, and the performance was wonderful.

Congratulations!



A Special Thank You

I am writing this article after having watched an assembly delivered by students about their experience working on *'Beauty and the Beast'*. In this assembly, we heard from cast, crew and orchestra members about their work on the show. Their words were heart-warming and inspiring, with two key messages shining through – the importance of collaboration and creativity. This sums up my own experience in this production.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the students and my colleagues for their collaboration and creativity. Throughout rehearsals, students and staff worked hard together to paint set pieces, make props, direct, develop characters and play challenging musical pieces. The cast and crew demonstrated their creativity as they worked together to solve artistic problems and embody unique characters. It was wonderful to watch, and their hard work paid off in an outstanding final product. The students also showed excellent professionalism while working with the technicians from Palmer Lighting who built the set and designed the lighting for the show. The students also showed the utmost care and respect for the whimsical costumes hired from Utopia Costumes. A special thank you to Miss Kolpaktchi for all of her hard work organising these hires and to her and her father for building Maurice's imaginative contraption.

Thank you to all the staff – Mrs Hargraves, Mr Griffith, Miss Orr, Miss Kolpaktchi, Ms Khan and Mrs Barber. Thank you to the student performers, technical team and marketing team. Thank you to the families of those involved and our audiences. Thank you to the Art and DT departments for supporting our student technical team. Thank you to everyone who helped make our first post-pandemic production possible. It was a pleasure to work with you all. I am looking forward to our next creative pursuit together.

Ms Berk















