

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Mary Poppins flies beyond audience expectations

To put the pop into *Mary Poppins*, students literally flew above the stage. Seniors Esmee Belzer and JJ Pierce recalled their adventures of making all of the flights successful ones.

"One of the most iconic parts of Mary Poppins' character is her silhouette, so this made flying very difficult for me! Keeping my shoulders down, chin up, and feet in first position all while wearing the flying harness was a struggle at time," said Belzer.

For Pierce, the challenge was different.

"My biggest struggle was tricking my brain into thinking upside down. You have to think differently when you are hanging there. Every muscle in your body had to be engaged, including your brain," said Pierce.

Successes and rewards enhanced their "flying" experiences during the

performances.

"Knowing that every person i the audience is looking at you and thinking 'Wow, Mary Poppins is truly magical' is a feeling like no other. It is immensely rewarding to be able to bring the classic idea of Mary Poppins alive by flying in such a amazing shoe" said Belzer.

For Pierce, the rewards were somewhat different. "Not many people can say that they have walked upside down, let alone not many high schoolers can say that. Being a part of a small group of people that can say that is such a amazing reward. Also, flying with my best friend, Esmee, is the biggest reward anyone could ask for," said Pierce.

Behind the flying scenes were the people who had expertise in the safety

and maneuvering of the ropes.

"I did not do nearly as much as I was credited for! After the initial flights and the safety talks, the cast and crew (plus LaCorte) ran everything on their own," said math teacher Allie Stecklein.

As a backup member to the Flight Crew, junior Spencer Wriedt, said, "There were four ropes to pull up the flyers and that required strength. Some of the challenges were timing the music and rope movements; also, some of the wires would get stuck and tangled on the lights, so we had to coordinate and fix those issues."

From the audience perspective, senior Kelly Thach said, "Seeing Mary Poppins fly really brought the show together and showed how much work they put into it. They are all so talented, and it was truly a great production."

"I was only a backup member to the Fly Crew; Colton and Maddisen were the main ones. Colton was mainly lifting them up and Maddisen travelled them across the stage," said junior Spencer Wriedt.



The Cast

Mary Poppins ...Esmee Belzer
Bert ...JJ Pierce
George Bank ...Holden Conner
Winifred Bank ...Lally Morales
Jane Banks ...Rebekah Riewerts
Michel Banks ...Casey Scott
Katie Nanna/Mrs. Corry ...Shelby Fick
Policeman/Northbrook ...Samuel Rosario
Miss Lark/Valentine ...Abby Saskowski
Admiral Boom ...Jacob Hansen
Mrs. Brill ...Jenny Wentworth
Robertson Ay/Bank Chairman.. Riley Toohey
Park Keeper.. Andrew Savely
Neleus..Devonte Westley
Queen Victoria.. Reagan Guy
Miss Smythe.. Leanna Soots
Von Hussler ...Trevor Milne
Miss Andrew ...Hannah Savely
Bird Woman ...Gabriella Swailes

Fannie ...Sofia Magalhaes
Annie ...Kimberly Walljasper
Teddy Bear ...Emily Gisel
Mr. Punch ...Margaret VanSpeyBroeck
Doll ...Skya Lau
Tap Captain ...Jordan Colton

Tap Crew: Shelby Fick, Reagan Guy, Sofia Maghalaes, Lally Morales, Abby Saskowski, Andrew Savely, Hannah Savely, Gabriella Swailes, Amanda Walljasper, Kimberly Walljasper, Jenny Wentworth, DeVonte Westley

Ensemble: Abigail Edlemon, Rylee Griffin, Teresa Gugelmeyer, Grace Holvoet, Clara Kane, Dakota Mathiason, Hallie Porter, Delaney Rall, Brielle Tuttle



As the musical takes its traditional cast photo, an encore for the cast of *Mary Poppins*.