

Dr. Campagna

Thea-171

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*Peter Pan*

This past weekend I had the pleasure of getting transported back to a time in my life when things were simpler. Back when pixie dust and trust solved many of my problems. Over the weekend Monmouth College proudly presented their production of *Peter Pan or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up*.

The show opened on November 16th and ran until November 19th and debuted in the Wells Theatre. They had a total of 5 shows and were almost all at full capacity, even selling out some of the shows. I personally attended on Saturday November 18th at the 7:30pm showing. The cast and crew had already put on the show once that day around 2pm and I was excited to see whether the momentum and energy of the show would be built upon or if it would dissipate.

The production of *Peter Pan* focuses on Peter, a young boy who is determined to never grow up, and his adventures in Neverland. Peter is focused on just having fun with the other lost boys but is met with conflict as he battles Captain Hook and tries his best to keep his new mother, Wendy, and the lost boys safe. When Wendy, her brothers, and the lost boys are captured by Hook, Peter takes immediate action and goes to rescue his friends. In the words of Peter Pan, he says "It's me or Hook this time".

When I was asked to attend this showing of *Peter Pan*, I was worried about how it would go. When it comes to a show like this one there are a lot of expectations and frankly, I wasn't sure if they were going to be met. When I arrived at the theater, I found my seat and took time to just sit and observe. The stage had the main drape pulled and there was whimsical music being played that helped pull you into the world of the show without having seen anything yet.

Samantha Zigmant, the sound engineer, and Edrass J. Chaves-Alvarado, the sound technician, did a wonderful job at paying attention to the small details from the second the house opened. They would continue to do a fantastic job through the rest of the show with their funny and well thought out sound cues.

When the show began it started with the Storytellers who were used to help guide the audience members through the events of the show. I as an audience member don't always love narration but thoroughly enjoyed it thanks to the way they split up the dialogue among storytellers. This made the storytellers seem more like a friendly conversation rather than being told how I should feel or what I should be paying attention to. With how they spoke I was able to understand the diction even if I was unaware of the phrases and how they were being used. You could tell that they had done their homework and really understood what they were saying.

The part that impressed me the most was the way they used flying in the show. The flying was well choreographed and really added to the spectacle of the show. When you go to see *Peter Pan*, you want to see flying and audiences are left disappointed if they don't fly. That was not the case here. They kept the magic alive by flying and had an interesting way of making tinker bell come to life by only using sound effects and a little green light. The spectacle really added to the plot of the show and helped keep us entranced in the concept of magic and make believe and the feeling of never wanting to grow up.

Peter Pan as a character is one, we can easily relate to. He is young and doesn't want to grow up and take responsibilities, but as fun as that sounds it also ends up being his character flaw. Since he resents growing up, he actually pushes away the people around him who can't help but grow up and long for a different lifestyle. This leads to the thought of the play being that

holding onto your imagination can be great, but you can't let it hold you back from what you are being called to in life.

Overall Monmouth College did a fantastic job and really hit on all of the six parts of a play. I would highly recommend going to the show as they are doing a second weekend of shows. Get your tickets now at the Monmouth College box office and fly away to the Neverland.