

Dewey Finn is a raggedy, good-for-nothing, rocker with big dreams, dreams of being a rockstar. Dreams however, don't pay the rent, or so he's told. Dewey's struggling to make his dream a reality. The question is, will he make it?

The musical School of Rock is based on the 2003 movie of the same name starring Jack Black and Joan Cusack. Both follow the crazy antics of Dewey Finn, a down on his luck rocker dreaming of fame. Dewey lives with his best friend Ned Schneebly, a timid substitute teacher and his domineering girlfriend Patty who threatens eviction if Dewey fails to pay the rent. When Dewey intercepts a message from Horace Green asking Ned to substitute, Dewey decides to impersonate his friend for the job. Upon his arrival at Horace Green, Dewey (as Ned) realizes his students are musically inclined and forms them into a band so that he can enter Battle of the Bands.

Severna Park's School of Rock was electric thanks to many exceptionally talented voices, tireless and magnetic dancing, and a charming band of misfit characters. The audience felt as though they were placed in the front row of a rock concert thanks to the intensity of the Rock n' Roll music and the passion and anger of the characters. The rather serious subjects of adolescence and neglect as well as the touchy subject of dreams were depicted in such a comical and ludicrous fashion that the audience's mouths hurt from constant smiling and laughing.

Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn was exceptional. He bounced around stage as he charismatically stuck it to the man. He growled and rocked his way into our hearts despite being terribly irresponsible and self-serving. Elena DeMajistre as Ms. Mullins astounded many when she burst out in operatic vocals displaying her incredible talent and skill and revealing Ms. Mullins as a more classical and disciplined character. She endeared herself to the audience when she let her hair down quite literally and revealed her doubt and regret in the song "Where Did The Rock Go."

The cast of School of Rock created an atmosphere packed with satire and levity. This atmosphere was created by characters such as Ned Schneebly (Michael Bateman) and Patty (Josee Molavi), who together had a great dynamic with the posing of Ned's timidness against Patty's domineering personality, as well as Summer Hathaway (Isabel Gonzalez) and Billy Sanford (Eric Willner) who kept the audience laughing with their eccentricities.

The lighting use in School of Rock enhanced the show by creating the atmosphere for many scenes. The red lights highlighted the rage, passion and tension of the rock n ' roll numbers while the flash of the lower cluster lights during Battle of The Bands effectively mimicked pyrotechnics and created the feel of a rock concert.

Severna Park High School put on a show that split sides and left the crowd roaring for an encore.

by Michelle Kendig of Old Mill

Attention all rockers! If you're looking for a new band and next month's rent, what better place to look than Horace Green Prep! In Severna Park's rendition of School of Rock The Musical, the whole cast sets the scene of pre-Battle of the Bands, with deceit, frustration, and, most importantly, rock "n" roll.

In School of Rock, Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman) is a freeloading musician, who gets kicked out of his own band and is suddenly forced to pay rent. Soon after, he gets a call from Horace Green Prep School, and the next morning, he is going in as a substitute teacher while pretending to be his best friend. Dewey later discovers that all of the children in his class have incredible musical ability. Dewey realizes that he doesn't need to find band members, he can just use the kids as his band and win the Battle of the Bands.

The sets were very well executed and creative. From the big Horace Green sign outside of the school, to the pizza boxes on the floor in Dewey's bedroom, each detail of each set brought every scene to life. The orchestra was strategically placed above the whole set, behind the School of Rock logo, making them a subtle feature, yet prominent at the same time.

Though there were many individuals who shined in their own way during the performance, there were some who stood out as an excellent individual. Ned Schneebly (Michael Bateman) had multiple amazing acting moments; showing the extensive character development that must have taken place. Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman) portrayed the character in such a way that the audience understood the whole character of Dewey Finn.

Though being injured, Hickman's rendition of Dewey strongly displayed his talent, and his crazy thought processes.

The cast as a whole were wonderful, but what really brought the show to life were the actors as individuals inside of the ensembles. Mainly this applied to the students. Sophie (Mary Fitzell) captured the energy in the music and put it into her performing. Although she didn't have many lines, she would definitely still catch some gazes with her extraordinary dance moves and facial expressions. Tomika (Bianca Radice), being shy for more than half of the show, excellently showed her shyness through her timid actions and gentle movements.

The technical crew in School of Rock was very well prepared for whatever came at them. Though the set changes were a bit long at some points, they were masked by the creative use of lighting. The lighting showed the crazy and wild aspect of Rock "n" Roll, setting the mood for most of the show.

Overall, Severna Park produced a "hardcore" show filled with tons of energy and a very talented cast, keeping the audience attentive and excited about what was about to happen next. School of Rock taught the audience that it's okay to be a little "loosey-goosey" and to "Stick it to the Man" every once and a while.

by Abbey Bulla of Seton Keough

Get schooled at Severna Park's legendary production of "School of Rock"! The show thrilled the audience with its ear-popping music and energetic cast.

"School of Rock the Musical," with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, hit Broadway in 2015 and was nominated for four Tony Awards, including best new musical. It is based on the 2003 movie School of Rock about Dewey Finn (originated by Jack Black), a rock star wannabe. When Dewey gets kicked out of his band, he is desperate to pay his rent. So he pretends to be substitute teacher Ned Scheenbly at the preppy Horace Green private school. Overcoming many conflicts along the way, Dewey teaches that life is not about winning; it's about rock.

Severna Park made the show its own by changing the students from elementary-school to middle-school-aged. The cast had a blast jamming together. During the songs "I'm in the Band" and "Stick it to the Man," the cast's strong dance moves and powerful voices captivated the audience. The most extraordinary aspect of the show was the student orchestra conducted by Ryan Rendina.

Sam Hickman played the quirky yet loveable lead role, Dewey. Hickman's stage presence and killer range made his character unforgettable. He stood out as one of the few cast members who played his own instrument. The romantic chemistry between Elena DeMajistre (Rosalie Mullins) and Hickman was natural. DeMajistre's acting was dynamic. In the first act, she played her character as intimidating and strict; in the second act, she let her hair down and began to loosen up. DeMajistre also demonstrated incredible range and vocal control in "Queen of the Night" and "Where did the Rock Go?". Michael Bateman's character (the real Ned Schneebly) evolved from dry yet humorous to confident. Jason Bellanca (Max Mooneyham), another cast member who played his own instrument, shredded the guitar while roaring the lyrics. Isabel Gonzalez (Summer Hathaway) played the sassy teacher's pet while showing the character's rocker side in "It's Time to Play." Bianca Radice (Tomika) had a shy, quiet presence before shocking the audience during "Amazing Grace" and "School of Rock" with her powerhouse belt and astonishing vocal agility.

The cast obviously loved performing this show. Mary Fitzell (Sophie) and Xavier Simms-Jackson (Mason) were standout dancers, holding nothing back. Matt Hall (Snake, Mr. Stanford, and Gabe Brown) played several personas yet made each unique. The actors who played parents changed from strict and oblivious to supportive and loving.

Though the set changes were long, the set, props, and lighting were extraordinary. The empty pizza boxes strewn around Dewey's messy room introduced character traits without words. The lighting was spot-on during big numbers, especially, "Stick it to the Man." The mics were controlled well, though it was sometimes hard to hear the singers over the instruments. But the singers did an excellent job of projecting.

Severna Park's "School of Rock" rocked the audience's socks off, and taught the lesson to always stay young at heart and to believe in your

dreams.

by Shannon Sullivan of Indian Creek

If you're a rock musician struggling to pay rent to your best friend's overbearing girlfriend, you have one of two options: give up your dreams, or pretend to be a substitute teacher at a distinguished private school and use your students to form a band. The choice is obvious, right? It is for Dewey Finn in the Severna Park Stage Company's rendition of "School of Rock".

Based on the 2003 Paramount film of the same name, "School of Rock" depicts a story of perseverance, deception, and of course, rock n' roll. With lyrics by Glenn Slater, book by Julian Fellowes, and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the Tony-nominated musical premiered on Broadway in 2015; it follows a washed-up rock star, Dewey Finn, as he attempts to achieve his dream of winning the Battle of the Bands.

The Severna Park Stage Company's production was truly brought to life by the harmony of the students. Each individual character's idiosyncrasies came together to form a diverse yet united cast. This is especially prominent in the number, "If Only You Would Listen", in which the students were placed in tableaux with their respective parents. These tableaux, juxtaposing the two groups, allowed to audience to see the origin of some of the students' idiosyncrasies through the student's tense physicality and exasperated expressions when interacting with their parents.

Sam Hickman stole the show as the rock star himself, Dewey Finn. His slouched posture and exaggerated swagger effortlessly conveyed his character's carefree nature to the audience. Hickman channeled his character when improvising contemporary wise-cracks that had the audience howling with laughter. Vocally, Hickman's raspy, powerful voice paralleled that of many popular rock singers which added to the authenticity of his performance. His counterpart, Elena DeMajistre as Rosalie Mullins was equally stunning. Her voice exhibited extensive range and control, conveying her character's development. In the first act of the show, Mullins' voice had a technical, smooth, operatic tone matching the

rigidness of her character. While in the second act, during the song “Where did the Rock Go?” Mullins’ tone was more airy and carefree, corresponding to the newfound lightheartedness of her character.

Other noteworthy characters included Michael Bateman as Ned Schneebly and Josee Molavi as Patty. Bateman’s use of expressive mannerisms, his slumped posture and hands hidden in pockets, clearly expressed his character’s pushover disposition. Molavi conveyed her character’s domineering persona through her purposeful strides and imposing presence.

Technically the show was a success. The audience could view the pit band above the stage for much of the show adding a genuine rock n’ roll ambiance to the performance. In addition, although scene changes lagged at times, actors distracted the audience by walking across the stage, recreating hallway scenes.

The Severna Park Stage Company’s performance of “School of Rock” asks us to never give up on our dreams, put aside our differences, and come together through the power of music.

by Kacy Workman of Annapolis

Welcome to Horace Green, a prestigious prep school where students spend their days studying and testing off the charts—that is, until a guitar-shredding, rule-breaking rocker rolls into town. This was the premise of Severna Park’s School of Rock, where rules are broken, people are transformed, and children learn to “stick it to the man!”

In School of Rock, an esteemed prep school is invaded with its formidable, rule-breaking foe of rock in the form of Dewey Finn, a down-on-his-luck rock star who transforms students from scholars into rockers, giving them an outlet to express themselves in the process. Based on the 2003 film of the same name, the musical opened on Broadway in December 2015, with Andrew Lloyd Webber having adapted the songs for Broadway. The show is a critical success, receiving four Tony nominations.

Anchoring the production was the talented cast. From unique and lively

ensembles adding emotional depth to the show to the comedic and rebellious main characters, the cast formed a cohesive whole that brimmed with energy.

Sam Hickman (Dewey Finn) brought a true rock star to the Severna Park stage. His wise-cracking rocker, requiring a physically and vocally demanding performance, never failed to provide energy for other cast members to play off of, even hampered by a blown knee. Michael Bateman (Ned Schneebly) became an instant audience favorite through subtle acting choices, from body language discreetly developing Ned over the course of the show to subtle facial expressions eliciting laughter from the audience. Elena DeMajistre (Rosalie Mullins) navigated her demanding vocal range with ease throughout the show while providing stark contrast to Hickman's rebellious character with her professional stature.

Josee Molavi (Patty) sauntered around the stage with a haughty air, capturing the scene and immediately becoming the dominant force in any crowd she was a part of. Bianca Radice (Tomika) portrayed a shy girl struggling to be heard before captivating the audience with an "Amazing Grace" rendition. The student ensemble was in sync throughout the show, forming a cohesive whole despite bringing unique, characters to the stage. They instantly became an audience favorite, with Eric Willner's hysterical Billy and Jason Bellanca's heartfelt Zack straining for his father's attention standing out.

The lighting (Shannon Stokes, Casey Clements, Laura Folts, and Colin Fox) set the tone for each scene, providing softer light for Horace Green and harsh vibrant colors for the band. Aya Stefanovich and Dana Brant's stage crew's versatile set portraying various locations through choice props usage was well-done, but caused drawn out scene changes. Kendall Bear, Ashley Rolf, and Tacy Surrett's attention to props was evident, from Dewey's messy "room" complete with pizza boxes and dirty laundry to the teacher's lounge equipped with a sofa and coffee dispenser.

Severna Park's production of School of Rock tackled the demanding task with gusto, providing a satisfactory performance that left the audience wanting to "pledge allegiance to the band."

by Lexi Danielson of Annapolis

Severna Park High School's production of "School of Rock" had the audience dancing along to the beat of the music.

Based on the 2003 film starring Jack Black, the passionate guitarist Dewey Finn gets thrown out of his band and finds he needing work to pay rent to his best friend, Ned Schneebly. Acting as a substitute teacher at an exclusive private school, Horace Green, he exposes his students to the rock "n" roll legends he admires. As they advance, he visualizes his own redemption at a local Battle of the Bands competition.

Beaming with energy, Sam Hickman, portraying Dewey Finn, and his students carry the show. The students demonstrate their stellar vocal abilities and unity in numbers such as, "You're in the Band," "If Only You Would Listen," and "Stick it to the Man."

Leading the show, Hickman commands the stage with his impressive vocals and spunky personality. Opposite him, Elana DeMajistre portrays the strict principal of Horace Green, Rosalie Mullins. Her beautiful soprano impresses the audience in her first solo number, "Here at Horace Green," where she explains how high the standards are at Horace Green, but throughout the show she slowly reveals her sensitive side. Michael Bateman, as Ned Schneebly, uses many different ways to express the nerdy character. When introduced, he walks on stage physically showing us how unconfident Ned is because of his posture, but as the production progresses he slowly opens up and becomes the thrilling rock lover he once was.

The students of Horace Green show off their individual personalities more and more throughout the show. Every student always remains in character, especially Jason Bellanca, as Zack Mooneyham, also exposing us to his fantastic guitar skills, Mary Fitzell, as Sophie, and C. Max Bachmann, as Freddy Hamilton. Isabel Gonzalez, as Summer Hathaway acts sassy and studious. She also takes her authoritative position as band manager in her number with the Students, "Time to Play." Eric Willner adds comic relief as the dazzling stylist of the band, with his witty comments and tantrums.

Ryan Rendina, as Theo, opens the show with his stellar vocals in, "I'm too Hot for you." Miles Michalski, playing Mr. Mooneyham, expresses his constant fury and neglect towards his son (Jason Bellanca), who only yearns

for a relationship with him. Clay Crawford, as Jeff Sanderson, continuously has the audience laughing whenever on stage.

Although some technical aspects were lacking, the lighting (Shannon Stokes, Casey Clements, Laura Folts, Colin Fox) set the mood of every scene and mimicked the characters' emotions. The costumes, designed by Sarah Howland and Caedan Ackerman, contribute positively to the show, all of the students look neat when in their uniforms and when expressed individually, it shows off their true personalities. The makeup, also designed by Sarah Howland, enhances their natural features.

Severna Park High School's production of "School of Rock" deserves a gold star for the non-stop energy and stellar harmonies throughout the entire show.

by Ashley Case - Co-Lead Critic of Beth Tfiloh

"School of Rock"

Imagine walking into school and you have a substitute teacher. It's a nice change of pace, maybe a little work but nothing special. Well the students at Horace Green walked into class to find Dewey Finn or Mr. S, their ex wannabe rocker substitute. This middle school classroom quickly switched from an ordinary classroom to an epic rock concert. Come get your ticket to Severn Park High School's production of "School of Rock" and be prepared to let your inner rock star free.

The brand new musical "School of Rock" is based on the 2003 film. The story follows Dewey Finn posing as best friend Ned Schneebly as a substitute teacher at Horance Green Prep School, trying to make some easy money after getting kicked out of his rock band. Not accustomed to work, Finn strays from the usual curriculum and teaches these middle schoolers how to rock out. Hiding from the stern principal, Finn trains his new band to compete in The Battle of the Bands. With little rockers by his side, Dewey leads his band to the competition and transforms the theatre into a fist pumping rock concert.

Embodying his inner rock star, Sam Hickman energized the entire show portraying Dewey Finn. With his incredible vocals and his impeccable stage

presence, Hickman became Dewey Finn and taught his students how to rock. Singing lead vocals in the song “You”re in the Band,” Hickman jammed out and delivered solid performance. From spunky personality to his emotional connections, Hickman delivered an honest and real performance leaving the audience on their feet cheering for an encore. Mastering the strict and straight-faced Mrs. Mullins, Elena DeMajistre characterized the role seamlessly, while executing crystal clear high notes throughout the show.

The students put life into the show, bringing each of their characters to life. As an ensemble, the students blended through their vocals and as a coherent group. In addition to their flawless harmony, each student shined just as bright on their own. Demanding the spotlight with her attitude, Isabel Gonzalez brought to life the true essence of band manager, Summer Hathaway. Strumming his way across the stage, Jason Bellanca executed the role of Zack Monneyham both emotionally and musically. Surprising the audience with her jaw dropping vocals, Bianca Radice as Tamika gave a performance to remember. And who could for get the captivating dancer, Mary Fitzell as Sophie, drawing all the attention to her sharp and perfect execution of the choreography?

The comedic couple, Ned Schneebly played by Michael Bateman and Patty played by Josee Molavi left the audience laughing at the awkwardness of Ned and the bluntness of Patty. Bateman”s performance highlighted the character development of Schneebly, while still nailing the comedic timing. Molavi”s loud but sassy portrayal of Patty added spunk and laughter to the show.

From feathered keyboardist to a knee braced band leader, the cast of “School of Rock” transformed the theater into a spectacular rock concert, really “stick[ing] it to the man.”

by Debbie Isack of Beth Tfiloh

Screams fill the theatre as the band takes the stage. The smoke curling around their ankles and the costumes blazing in the lights as they pick up their instruments and begin to play. And in that moment they truly become rock stars in Severna Park's production of "School of Rock".

Dewey has big dreams to be a famous rock star, but when he is kicked out of his band No Vacancy he finds himself bandless before the biggest rock contest: The Battle of the Bands. When he realizes he is penniless and unable to pay rent to his friend Ned, he decides to impersonate Ned and pose as a substitute teacher for the children of the elite Horace Green elementary school. There he teaches them that they all have a voice through rock and that it can always be heard if you play loud enough.

Severna Park's production was hilarious at every turn. Even though the scene changes could have been a lot quicker, the cast did a great job entertaining the audience during those times. Every scene seemed like a personal experience and the whole cast projected energy and excitement onto their crowd of admirers.

Tech did an exquisite job managing the flashing colored lights, and the mikes. The light changes perfectly added the feeling that you were truly experiencing a rock concert. The fog at the end added a layer of anticipation and mystery to the performance. The mikes always cut in and out precisely at the exact moment that a chart would have to yell a line. The props gave you the feeling that each scene was real. The band was a huge highlight of the whole show. Their performance was uncanny and their rock skills, over the top.

Striking the audience with their terrific harmonies, energy, and stage presence, the ensembles were a big highlight of the show. Their involvement in the show made it feel less like a performance and more like an experience.

Sam Hickman (Dewey Finn) was hilarious in every scene and really looked involved in the character he was playing. His dedication to the show is completely jaw dropping, and he played the guitar seamlessly. Michael Bateman portrayal of Ned Schneebly was spot on. Not only did he convey each emotion through his words, but also his spot on body language, and his ability to fully transform his character at the end of the show was unbelievable. Even though the part she was given was horribly difficult, Elena DeMajistre (Rosalie Mullens) stunned us all with her unforgettable high notes and charming character. She exemplifies the struggles of a woman locked inside of herself due to the expectations of her student's parents. In her song "Give Up Your Dreams", Josee Molavi (Patty) really portrayed the rudeness of her character and sang her heart out. Her

constant negative reviews of Dewey's life helped give a funny backtrack to Dewey's dreams. Really engaging in his character's development and emotions Eric Willner (Billy) was a true highlight of the show with his hilarious outbursts and overall joking demeanor. His acting and singing in "If Only You Would Listen" was touching and truly the heart of his character. Last but not least, Bianca Radice did an amazing job playing Tomika and her voice was appealing. When she began to sing Amazing Grace, a chorus of gasps and cheers could be heard from the amazed crowd.

Overall, the performance was spectacular and really touching. Great job Severna Park and rock on!

by Ellie Leybengrub of Beth Tfiloh

Looking for a night of flashing strobe lights, electric guitar riffs, and toe-tapping, finger-snapping music? Severna Park High School delivered this and much more during their vibrant, fun production of "School of Rock".

Based off the hit 2003 movie, "School of Rock" tells the story of Dewey Finn, a rock musician struggling to find himself in both his music and personal life. After being thrown out of his band, Dewey must devise a plan to help pay his rent or face eviction by his roommates, Ned and Patty. When the opportunity presents itself, Dewey lands a job as a substitute teacher at a prep school and thus begins his journey of self-discovery as he teaches his students the value of music and the true meaning of rock'n'roll.

Severna Park's overall success was anchored by the high energy performances of Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman) and his diverse, spunky class of students. Hickman led the cast with charismatic stage presence and passion, while the many unique characters portrayed in the classroom brought a freshness to each number and kept the audience engaged throughout the night.

Along with Dewey, Principal Mullins (Elena DeMajistre) took command of the stage as a strong lead character. The pair played opposite each other naturally and humorously, with stellar vocals and impressive character development enhancing each other their performances. Hickman expertly

delivered line after humorous line, and his rockin' voice was the highlight of many numbers including "You're in the Band" and "Stick it to the Man". DeMajistre's compelling character charmed the entire audience, and her beautiful soprano voice added purity and softness to many songs throughout the show.

The students of Horace Green were a main highlight of the show, whether it be with witty jokes, excellent choreography execution, or spot-on harmonies. Three students who performed particularly well were Summer Hathaway (Isabel Gonzalez), Zach Mooneyham (Jason Bellanca), and Tomika (Bianca Radice). Gonzalez's thorough understanding of Summer's independent, bold personality helped her execute the character's vocal and physical mannerisms very well, while Bellanca amazed the entire audience with advanced guitar-playing and emotional scenes opposite his father, Mr. Mooneyham (Miles Michalski). Lastly, Radice's spectacular vocal ability took command of the theater and her sweet character held a special place in the group of students.

While there were audio difficulties throughout the show, Severna Park's tech had many positive aspects. Their orchestra set the mood for each scene and truly added a professional touch to the production. While set changes tended to last for a bit longer than the desired time, the director smartly disguised these changes as scenes taking place in Horace Green's halls. Another noteworthy technical aspect of the show was the lighting, which gave the rock band numbers the illusion of a rock'n'roll concert.

Severna Park's production of "School of Rock" overall struck a deep chord in each audience member's heart, showing how music can unleash special talents within everyone, and that sometimes trying something new can lead to a rockin', unforgettable, and life-changing experience.

by Orly Krupp of Beth Tfiloh

"School of Rock" at Severna Park was a rockin' show. In addition to keeping the energy up the entire show, the cast put all of their heart and soul into their performance. "School of Rock" exceeded people's expectations with their character development, energy throughout, the amazing performance by the lead actors and actresses, the splendid dancing from the students and the tech crew's attempts to move the show

along.

Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Glenn Slater and Julian Fellowes based off the movie by the same name, "School of Rock" is a fast paced rock musical with much action. The show debuted on December 6th 2015 at the Winter Garden Theatre starring Alex Brightman and Sierra Boggess.

The overall production at Severna Park was good, but had some technical issues with set changes and microphones at times. Other than those slight issues, the costumes looked very appropriate for the show, the choreography was very fitting and carried out well by the students in the show. Many harmonies sang throughout the show were very beautiful and moved many audience members.

With the amazing cast comes amazing leads. Sam Hickman, who portrayed the character of Dewey Finn wonderfully. Even with the injury to his knee, he continually ran and jumped around the stage as if he was not injured at all. Hickman also had astounding vocal abilities, allowing him to belt and sing in beautiful falsetto. Another lead that deserves an honorable mention for all of her incredible high notes is Elena DeMajistre. Queen of the Night is an incredibly difficult song to sing and she was able to sing it so clearly and loudly which brought joy to many people watching the show.

The Student ensemble was one of the most energetic parts of the show. The actors and actresses had amazing dance abilities and worked very hard to keep the audience interested in what was going on throughout the show. Many of their energy levels met those of Sam Hickman. One of the girls in particular who kept her energy up the entire show was Mary Fitzell. She was fun to watch and always looked like she was having the time of her life.

The technical aspect of the show was very interesting. Many of the set changes were very long and tedious, as the music stopped playing before the light came back on. On the other hand, the lighting of the show was impressive beside the set changes. The colored lights with the fog during the final scene was really cool. The sound was good for the most part as the microphones usually worked. Unfortunately the band was very loud and despite being amazing, it drowned out the singers.

In conclusion, Severna Park did a great job especial for a high school performance as they had an incredibly talented cast, decent tech and an

amazing band in their performance of School of Rock this November.

by Yael Seaman of Beth Tfiloh

At Horace Green, they are smart, refined, and play only classical music. That is, until Dewey Finn arrives. Severna Park High School expressed this tale of hardcore rock very well through their performance of "School of Rock."

The 2015 musical is based off of the 2003 movie "School of Rock." It started on Broadway on December 6, 2015 and is still there today. The book was written by Julian Fellows. The music was composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and the lyrics were written by Glenn Slater. It is about a man named Dewey Finn who pretended to be his roommate Ned Schneebly in order to get money for being a substitute teacher. His class turned out to be perfect for a rock band and Finn soon signed them up for the battle of the bands. Everything was going great until everyone found out that he was in fact not Ned Schneebly.

The overall production of "School of Rock" was pretty good. The amazing actors really anchored the show and portrayed their characters very well. The whole cast had great energy and expertly executed the dances and songs.

The leads in this production were amazing. One that stood out was Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn. He performed his character exceptionally through facial expressions, singing, and just plain acting. He portrayed a well rounded character that was messy yet responsible and hardcore just like his character should be. Another amazing lead was Elena DeMajistre as Rosalie Mullins. Her character development was amazing and hilarious and really helped make her character stand out as a perfect lady who just wants to be liked by her employees.

The supporting characters really stood out in this show as well. The ensemble of the students worked really well together and showed lots of energy. One vocalist that really stood out was Bianca Radice as Tomika. Her singing solos were of the best quality of sound and her character development was really shown throughout her performance.

The tech in this show was fairly well done. The sound by Will Weatherford was a little bit off because some actors could not be heard over the orchestra or just in general but most of them were heard well and music was played at appropriate times. Also, the scene changes were very, very long. They left the audience waiting for maybe twenty or thirty seconds at a time, making the play last a very long time as well. The costumes by Sarah Howland on the other hand were very well done and gave each character a unique personality making the play that much more fun to watch.

It turns out that Dewey, who cant even dress himself, ended up teaching those kids how to rock, changing their lives forever. The whole production of "School of Rock" performed by Severna Park High School, was really captivating for the audience and a pleasure to watch.

by Alexandra Danckaert of Broadneck

School of Rock performed by Severna Park High School was based off the 2003 movie "School of rock." Without personally seeing the film, I was glad not to have anything to compare the performance to. The cast of Severna park was energetic in the beginning and middle of the show, although seemed to have forced energy towards the end of the show, nevertheless they put on a great show which was very enjoyable. I would first like to start off talking about the lighting and sound, while there were some small issues with the mics the overall sound was very clear and able to be heard throughout the show. The lighting effects where it came up towards the audience was very cool and unique because usually the lights are focused on stage. There was a major use of the auditorium space used in the production, I thoroughly enjoyed the illusion of being placed at any of the concerts that were being on stage. Summer Hathaway (Isabel Gonzalez) was a preppy girl who was changed through the musical. I loved watching what Gonzalez did with her character changing from preppy and uptight into somebody who was more relaxed and made to seem more like an average person who can get good grades and still have fun and express herself. Her jokes were very funny due to the fact that every time she made any type of joke it was out of the ordinary of what somebody would expect of her character. The ensembles were interactive with the audience and could be frequently

seen sitting in the front row of seats, or up and down the aisle of the auditorium. Each ensemble had different things they wanted from the main characters on stage. For example, the cheer leaders were all for the School of Rock band, while there were four other people dedicated to the band "No Vacancy"

Overall I thought it was a well put together production and was very entertaining to watch. One thing to keep in mind however is the amount of time it takes for scene changes. I felt some were much longer than they had to be. However, this was covered up with the teachers walking acrossed the stage as though they were in the halls of the school.

by Cameron Orner of Broadneck

Music starts blaring from the speakers, the crowd screams, lights up on a dark stage, and who's performing? Young students and their teacher wow a crowd by playing the ultimate rock "n" roll! Severna Park High School jammed out as Horace Green students this Saturday night.

"School of Rock: The Musical" is a musical based on the 2003 Paramount film, "School of Rock." The storyline consists a man named Dewey Finn who lives and breathes rock n roll; so much that he poses as his best friend, Ned Schneebly, as a substitute teacher at Horace Green Prep. School. While posing as a teacher with the intent to make some extra money, he discovers his students are musically gifted. Dewey decides to use this situation to his advantage"

The obvious dedication of the actors is what made Severna Park's production as successful as it was. With every single actor always in character, it was clear how much time and energy was put into this musical.

Dewey Finn was played by Sam Hickman. Hickman brought an abundance of energy to the stage, and it was clear the other actors were feeding off of him. The musical consists of many physically demanding scenes, but that was no problem for Hickman. He would jump from one side of the stage to the other, long hair in his face, with ease. In addition, he also played all of his music himself on the electric guitar. What was so impressive about this was while he was playing, he played 100% in

character. This all made for a very successful and believable performance.

Isabel Gonzalez, who played Summer Hathaway, stood out. In the midst of a very comical show, she had serious role. Gonzalez was very composed and able to say serious while countless jokes were made. Even when the focus wasn't on her, she'd do everything in character. Michael Bateman played Ned Schneebly, and did so in a way that caused the audience to constantly abrupt into laughter. Bateman played Ned in a way that showed his character development phenomenally. Starting out as a shy, pushover, at the end of the show Bateman changed the mood completely. After finally standing up to his wife, he showed the resolution by being extremely full of energy.

Props, done by Kendall Bear, Ashley Rolf, and Tacy Surrectt, were key in making the characters who they were, In Dewey's room, they had blankets, pizza boxes, and junk on the floor which showed how much of a mess Dewey was. All the instruments were very appropriate for the show and showed the rock "n" roll theme. The lighting (Shannon Stokes, Casey Clements, Laura Folts, Colin Fox) set the mood for the rock show. The bright lights flashing, the various colored lights, set the concert feel when needed. Lights were always up when they needed to up, and down in the same matter.

After seeing Severna Park's production of "School of Rock: The Musical," I definitely felt like I was "in the band"!

by Grace Broyhill of Broadneck

Ever wondered where the rock went? Enroll at Severna Park High School's "School of Rock" to find out!

Based on the classic 2003 film, "School of Rock" tells the tale of faux-substitute teacher Dewey Finn (or is it Ned Schneebly?), as he takes over a middle school class and teaches the students about what is really important in life: rock and roll. A fairly new show, this musical quickly became popular and still runs on Broadway today.

Anchored by a strong ensemble and lead actor, Severna Park's production

brought Dewey”s story to life with great success and individuality, with each actor creating a character unlike any other in the show. While at times the pace lagged a bit due to lengthy transitions, the cast came together to brighten up the room and put on a wonderful show.

Leading man Sam Hickman excelled as rocker Dewey, and carried the show with his boundless energy and tenacity. Despite an injury to his knee, Hickman performed as if nothing was wrong and completely stole the show. From playing the guitar throughout the entire show, to nailing the high notes in the opening number, and possessing an impressive sense for comedic timing, Hickman performed extremely well. Elena DeMajistre as Principal Rosalie Mullins should also be commended for a stellar performance, creating an adorable relationship between Dewey and Mullins, while elegantly commanding the stage with her strong operatic voice (shown beautifully in “Queen of the Night,” and “Where Did the Rock Go?”).

Isabel Gonzalez as Summer Hathaway was particularly memorable for her dry wit and endearing presence as the strict band manager, beginning the second act with a bang with “Time to Play”. Among the other amazing students of Horace Green is Bianca Radice, as the shy yet powerful singer Tomika, (who sang “Amazing Grace” with nothing but grace), and Jake Wernecke as Lawrence the keyboard player, whose loveable awkwardness and quips were simply hilarious. Michael Bateman as the real Ned Schneebly was also quite good, using body language to convey Schneebly”s thoughts quite well when words failed him. Bateman and Hickman”s scenes together were among the funniest and most heartfelt, as the friendship between the two was evident in their chemistry, and solidified the relationship between Dewey and Ned.

“School of Rock” is to be praised especially for its superb lighting design by Shannon Stokes, Casey Clements, Laura Folts, and Colin Fox, who masterfully used color to set the mood for each scene. The Battle of the Bands scene was made even better by the lighting team”s use of bright stage lights pointed at the audience. The props collected and made by Kendall Bear, Ashley Rolf, and Tacy Surrectt contained an astounding attention to detail only rivaled by the costumes made by Caedan Ackerman and Sarah Howland.

Thanks to Severna Park”s “School of Rock,” we all learned how to stick it to the man and be in the band, as long as we don’t commit fraud.

by Hayle Barry of Broadneck

Wow! There's a rocking show going on this weekend at Severna Park- they are performing "School of Rock!!"

The "School of Rock" the musical originated from the 2003 movie "School of Rock", starring Jack Black and many other amazing actors and actresses. The story line of the musical is quite a funny and interesting one. Dewey Finn, the lead male, steals his friend's job as a substitute at the local middle school after being kicked out of his band. Dewey then goes on teaching his students about rock and roll and eventually forming a band. They then go and compete in the battle of the bands and win!

Severna Park had done a fantastic job performing the musical and its intricate story line. They all had conveyed exceptional talent and such high energy throughout the show, especially in the first half. Every cast member showed a true connection with their character and it definitely showed on stage.

Sam Hickman, who had played Dewey Finn, had done a fabulous job despite his injury. He definitely looked like he was in pain for some parts of the show, but quickly disguised it. He had kept the energy high and sang like a pro. He was truly dedicated to his roll and for that he performed above and beyond.

Throughout the show we had seen several different ensembles and each one had done a great job. But, I didn't quite understand the cheerios. They did add a whole other level of energy, but I felt like they were almost out of place. The students had been my favorite though. They showed an immense amount of energy by jumping all around the stage in upbeat songs. The supporting actors and actresses were also fabulous. Michael Bateman who had played Ned Schneebly had me laughing the entire show. He expressed his character so beautifully, and as a result had the audience in a laughing fit. One of my favorite parts of the show was when he screamed at Patty and ran off stage to get to the battle of the bands.

On the other hand though, the tech didn't do as nearly as good as the cast. There were several moments when the mics had gone wonky and

because of this some of the actors/actresses were way too loud, and some of them were way too quite. Also the transitions took way too long. I felt like I could have climbed to the top of Mount Everest and be back in time to see the next scene. But, I will say the sets did look amazing. Each one showed a great diversity and you could easily tell where the cast was at that moment.

In the end though, the show was amazing. Many of the songs done within the show truly blew me away. The harmonies were great, and the connection shown between the performer and their characters was phenomenal. Severna Park, round of applause to you and your excellent show.

by Katherine Dreiss of Broadneck

"Rock and roll music, if you like it, if you feel it, you can't help but move to it." (Elvis Presley) and Severna Park had everyone moving to the rhythm of rock in their performance of "School of Rock" this weekend.

"School of Rock" is based off of the 2003 movie, starring Jack Black. The main character, Dewey Finn is a low life rock enthusiast, who lives off of his best friend Ned Schneebly and Ned's girlfriend. After being kicked out of his band, and being late on rent, Dewey is desperate for money. After getting a call for an emergency substitute offering Mr Schneebly \$950 a week, Dewey pretends to be Ned and takes the job. He then teaches his students the art of rock n' roll, forming a secret band and finally performing in a local Battle of the Bands. The students learn they have hidden talents, how to express themselves, and how they can fix relationships with their parents. It is an inspiring story with twists and turns and musical numbers that can bring an audience to tears.

Severna Park carried this show with high energy and executed it with rock and roll magic. Comedic timing was on point, and physical humor left the audience with stitches in their sides from laughing so hard. Notable performances included Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn, Michael Bateman as Ned Schneebly, and Isabel Gonzalez as Summer Hathaway. Severna's lighting, musical talent, and overall energy unified the whole show.

As for individual actors, Michael Bateman as Ned Schneebly was hilarious.

His mental breakdowns and killer Guitar Hero moves made the character. His development and comedic execution captured the audience. Paise to Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn, he blew his knee the night before but the show still went on. His movement was limited but he did not let that knee get in his way.

For ensembles, the Cheerios brought energy to the stage and added dimension to the performances. They consolidated the room and made it feel like the audience was in a real school rock concert with consistent high energy. The students also did well. Though they were a group each student built their own character into their group numbers.

The props, costumes and lighting added personality to individual characters and musical numbers. When a song needed that extra flair, lighting added it in pops of color that mimicked the emotions on stage and brought it to life. Costumes showed the characters inner rock animal in the end and props added that realness to the show, from a pizza box in Dewey's room to a full out bar with bottles and a jukebox, Severna was not lacking on the little details.

Severna Park rocked with no rhyme or reason and killed it in their performance of "School of Rock". It truly was "dope" and made the auditorium fill with laughter and applause.

by Kayla Biddle of Broadneck

Horace Green has a new teacher"except he's an imposter teaching the kids how to rock all while dodging their stiff school principal and the disagreeing parents. Severna Park High School portrayed this with minimal flaws last night in their production of School of Rock.

Richard Stuart Linklater released his film, School of Rock, in 2003 starring award winning actor Jack Black. Years later, on December sixth 2015 it had its world wide premiere on Broadway for the musical adapted by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Since, it has been nominated for multiple awards such as four Tony's. The production follows Dewey Finn, a rock star, freshly thrown out of his band No Vacancy. He takes the job of his roommate Ned Schneebly, a substitute teacher, to make money to pay

Ned's demanding girlfriend rent. While "teaching" the class at Horace Green, a prestigious private school, he finds out the kids play music then forming them into a band to compete in the battle of the bands.

Severna Park High School put on a captivating show determined by the energy in the room. Each member of the cast complied their individual character to full potential with the build of their complex personalities. From the enthusiastic dance numbers, to definite line delivery School of Rock was a notable success.

The identifiable leads were Sam Hickman playing Dewey Finn and Elena DeMajistre portraying Rosalie Mullins. Despite a prior injury Sam Hickman continued his roll with ease. At points there were line mishaps but for such a demanding part, verbally and physically, he worked well. Elena DeMajistre built up the part of Ms. Mullins, the school principal, believably. Her voice made the show and fit her part as an uptight, trying principal. Her character development was played thoroughly through posture and costume details from the start to the end of the show.

Throughout the entire production, Isabel Gonzalez, playing Summer Hathaway, stuck out with her effortlessly delivered lines and quick wit. Her overall character shown through the most embodying the go-getter personality. Eric Willner, as Billy, also caught my eye with his energetic performance making his character as flamboyant as possible. Between his dancing and body movements when speaking, he portrayed his character with effort and satisfaction. My final mention for supporting actors is Michael Bateman playing Ned Schneebly. Through the way he held his body limply and with little confidence, made for an entertaining act as a comedic part.

The most problematic aspect of last night's show were the mics sound. In the beginning of the production they were skipping but towards the end they were causing less trouble to the cast. The placement of the orchestra was interesting and added depth to the show. At times it did seem overpowering to the songs, but for the battle of the band scene it made for a concert like atmosphere. The time for scene changes was lengthy and the audience seemed impatient when waiting in the dark. But the hallway scenes in between made up for some of the time.

Before seeing Severna Park's production of School of Rock I was stuck in a dumb daze. Overall the show held up to my expectations with slight errors

on stage. The cast embodied each character with precision taking inspiration from the film.

by Maddie Roth of Broadneck

Don't you wish your boring school classes could be transformed into an electrifying rock concert? Severna Park High School's Production of "School of Rock" will fit all of your adrenaline needs. With an energized cast that has serious rock star potential, this performance has the many aspects of an exceptional high school musical.

School of Rock the Musical was based on the 2003 film "School of Rock" and premiered on Broadway in 2015 and is still showing today. The story focuses on a rock fanatic named Dewey Finn who had been kicked out of his band and decides to take the place of a substitute teacher to be able to pay rent. He finds talent in the kids he teaches and decides to educate them with his passion for music so that they could perform and win the Battle of the Bands.

The cast had consistent energy and drive during their difficult, strenuous songs and choreography. Also, having spot-on body language, speech, and with each note hit, the overall acting and singing abilities of this group of actors was phenomenal and that is what made this show fascinating. Furthermore, relevant, modern jokes were added to the already humorous script which made the audience cry out with laughter.

Sam Hickman, who played the lead role of Dewey Finn, did a remarkable job at reflecting the ridiculous and wacky behavior of this character despite his recent injury. The part of Rosalie Mullins, who was played by Elena DeMajistre, was a difficult role for its high vocal range and character development, but DeMajistre hit her notes and personality changes flawlessly.

A supporting role that was very prominent throughout the play was Ned Schneebly. because of Michael Bateman's hilarious take on the character. Although, the ensembles called "the Teachers" and "the Parents" would've been more enjoyable if the performers had projected their voices more or had used microphones. On the contrary, "the Students" ensemble was cast

brilliantly with each character having individuality solely based on the look and/or actions of the actors and actresses. For example, Isabel Gonzalez provided confidence and dry humor aspects of her character “Summer Hathaway” which made her stick out.

There were some technical issues including microphones acting up, spot lighting that did not match up with scenes, and interrupting, flashing lights which some may argue was distracting. However, the costume team did an amazing job of portraying the characters’ personalities through clothing.

Severna Park’s show was an overall success that had the people watching wanting more of the students’ regard for their (imposter) substitute teacher and that teacher’s faith in his students. Scenes that made the audience burst out laughing and scenes that made the viewers exclaim “aww” made it perfect for anyone looking to be thoroughly entertained. It was an excellent display of how people of many differences can come together to create something amazing through finding their true selves.

by Sedona Salb of Broadneck

In a time where funding for arts programs in school is on the decline, a single light can be seen on the horizon. The “children of rock” of Horace Green School are hot to “stick it to the man” in Severna Park’s head-bangin’ production of “School of Rock”.

Based on the notable 2003 film of the same name, “School of Rock” follows out-of-work musician Dewey Finn as he lies his way into a substitute teacher position in order to pay his rent. Having absolutely no teaching experience, he proceeds to instruct the students in the art of rock ‘n roll and enter them in Battle of the Bands. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber (“Phantom of the Opera”, “Jesus Christ, Superstar”, “Cats”), along with music from the original movie, contributes to the show’s notoriety.

From the detailed props”pizza boxes, posters, couch covers”to the minute physical attributes of individual characters, the attention to detail added greatly to the verisimilitude of the show. The costumes (Sarah Howland and Caedan Ackerman), particularly those worn by the school children,

were anything but tacky, complete with school logos and variety within the homogeneity of a uniform. Sharp execution of fast-paced choreography rounded out the production to make it excel in every aspect.

Sam Hickman, as Dewey Finn, commanded the stage with his strong open gestures and rock voice. Although he suffered a knee injury and was unable to bend his right leg, his adept maneuvering and commitment to the character allowed for his performance to remain virtually unaffected. Elena DeMajistre (Rosalie Mullins) utilized a smaller speaking voice and precise gestures to characterize Ms. Mullins as an uptight disciplinarian. Michael Bateman (Ned Schneebly) and Patty (Josee Molavi) used nearly opposite characterization to accentuate their discrepancy as a couple: slow plodding and assertive strutting, respectively.

Along with Hickman, Jason Bellanca (Zack Mooneyham) played his guitar live onstage, a difficult feat while embodying a character. Eric Willner (Billy Sanford) provided appropriate comedy with high leaps over chairs and innocent confidence in his much-hated sequined costume designs. Summer Hathaway (Isabel Gonzalez) tilted her nose in the air to offer Summer a proud, know-it-all nature, and Bianca Radice (Tamika) practically blew the curtains off the stage in act two with her unbelievably powerful vocals.

Whenever the band was performing, strobe lights flashed on and off to the beat, immersing the audience in a true rock concert experience. The lighting crew also created a dramatic silhouette of the families in the song "If Only You Would Listen", adding to the more serious moment in an otherwise comedic production. Although transitions between scenes were often lengthy and interrupted the flow of the show, the incredibly talented all-student orchestra played music to make them more engaging.

Overall, Severna Park's detailed and "too hot" performance of "School of Rock" embodied what it really means to pursue passions and rock on.

by Mary Charlotte Gitlin of Dulaney

Rock and Roll meets prestigious students. Sounds kind of crazy right? Well, not completely! It all came together In Severna Park High School's

production of "School Of Rock."

This musical goes on to tell the story of a wannabe rock star Dewey Finn that poses as a substitutes teacher at a top of the line prep school. When he learns of the student's musical talents, he enrolls his fifth grade class to form a rock group and conquer the Battle of the bands.

All together the musical was very well put together with some hiccups. Some of the issues were sound and scene changes. The acting and choreography was phenomenally executed. The cast was living with energy that sadly started to die out towards the end.

Both lead and supporting actors showed good execution in the musical. Though some notes fell flat at times or ones projection wasn't loud enough for them to be heard overall the actors did an exceptional job. The lead actor Dewey Finn played by Sam Hickman went above and beyond executing his role so greatly even with an injury. Rosalie Mullins played by Elena DeMajistre did a marvelous job hitting all those high to a perfect tee. Tamika played by Bianca Radice made hearts stop singing her rendition of "Amazing Grace".

The student's ensemble group (Isabel Gonzalez, Bianca Radice, Jason bellanca, C. Max Bachman, Alena Carhart, Jake Wernecke, Abby Burns, Rachel Kalafos, Eric Willner, Mary Fitzell, Xavier Simms-Jackson, Thomas Donegan, and Caroline Patterson) was so full of energy and was giving of the best facial expressions. The parent's ensemble group's (Miles Michalski, Lauren Carlson, Rebecca White, Lacey Ordakowaski, Matt Hall, Sara Canas, Clay Crawford, Viv Flanagan and Rachel Lotikar) acting was so precise especially during the scene where they were all yelling at Ms. Mullins about Dewey being an imposter. The cheerios" (Carey Cameron, Virginia garner, Erin Jeter, Emily Lozier, Liz O"Neil, Alex Paxton, Gen Sampson and Raquel Sobczak) were very lively though sometimes took away the attention from the main group. The No Vacancy's ensemble group (Ryan Redina, Annabelle Cotton, Abby Kondracki and Matt Hall) were so into their acting to create that rock and roll vibe.

The tech and stage crew had both ups and downs. The tech had some trouble with mics and bad mic feedback. Though sometimes the lights seemed to be too much on the eyes tech's lighting was very well thought out and put together. The stage crew's scene changes seemed to take a long time for the transition to happen though sometimes the band would

play and the time would seem to go by a little faster as they set up.

Severna Park High School's production of School Of Rock was a lively, all around exciting escapade that showed what rock and roll is all about.

by Kela Thomas of Glen Burnie

Severna Park High School's "School of Rock" surely was rocking!

The show "School of Rock" follows Dewey Finn, a "failure" and musician who currently lives in his best friend's, Ned Schneebly's, apartment. After receiving a phone call that was meant for Ned, Dewey gets the idea to pose as "Mr. Schneebly" and pretend to be a substitute teacher at the prep school Horace Green in an effort make some money. After spending sometime as their substitute teacher though, Dewey realizes that the kids are musically talented, which gives him another idea, to mold them into a band and enter them in the "Battle of the Bands" contest!

Severna Park's production overall was very entertaining and enjoyable. Jam-packed with comedic actors and strong vocalists, the show had the audience engaged almost the entire time. There was a small lack of energy towards the end of act two, but the actors were able to bring the energy back up during the finale, hence ending the show with a bang!

Getting down to specifics, lead actor Sam Hickman (who played Dewey Finn) did a fantastic job, consistently keeping his energy up and always making the audience laugh. Another actor who had the audience constantly laughing was Michael Bateman (who played Ned Schneebly). His timing and body language were fantastic, and it really had a large impact on how the audience reacted to his character. Besides being comedically strong though, the cast was vocally strong as well. Two vocalist in particular, Elena DeMajistre (who played Roselie Mullins) and Bianca Radice (who played Tomika) wowed the audience on multiple occasions, and both gave me chills at least once throughout the show. Besides the lead actors though, the students ensemble as a whole was very strong and entertaining as well. They kept the audience engaged and the show moving. One actor who really stood out from the ensemble though would be Mary Fitzell, who was always acting and dancing with a

great stage presence that caught my attention.

Moving on to some of the technical elements, the costumes, created and designed by Sarah Howland and Caedan Ackerman, were very cute and authentic looking. They did a great job making the prep school's uniforms and the teacher's costumes genuine looking without making them too tacky. Another technical element that really stood out was the lighting. Directed by Shannon Stokes, the lighting was excellent, and often added this extra punch to whatever the mood was in each scene. Occasionally, there were times when the lighting was almost a bit "too much". On that note though, "School of Rock" is supposed to be a big and exaggerated show, so maybe the lighting should be a little "too much" at times.

So to sum it all up, if you're looking for something to rock your night, Severna Park's "School Of Rock" is the show to see!

by Lauryn Damron of Glen Burnie

"School of Rock" is a musical adapted from a movie that follows Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman), a wannabe rock-star and couch potato on his journey to the local private school's Music Coach. Along the way he impersonates his best friend Ned Schneedly, a teacher, in order to gain a job at the local private school, Horace Green, as a long-term substitute so he can pay Ned and his girlfriend the rent he owes. When he gets to this school he teaches the kids who are normally up-tight how to loosen up and play rock-and-roll. Dewey and his band (Titled School of Rock) partake in the Battle of the Bands behind everyone's back. Dewey is found out to be a fraud on the day of the Battle of the Bands and chaos ensues. The children take the bus that was going to take them to the Battle to Ned's house and convince Dewey to play at the Battle. Originally No Vacancy, Dewey's former band, wins the Battle. However the crowd begins chanting "School of Rock" and the decision is overturned.

The cast have a real passion for what they do, and it came from electrifying performances from an injured Lead, even down to the parents of the children at Horace Green. They know how to keep your attention through various lighting changes that felt dramatically appropriate to the

scenes. Slow transitions of the set were accompanied by the teachers of Horace Green walking down the "hallway" and music playing. Lighting was done as an accent to the actions and as a guide on where to focus on stage. All of the music was played live, some by actors and some by a supporting band raised above the set and placed behind a semi-translucent black curtain. At times it played over the higher notes from the singers, but overall their talent was clear and they knew the music.

As far as vocals go, the full vocal range of the cast was on full display as boys and girls alike were hitting extremely high notes. The actors know their music and didn't seem to stutter or falter during their songs. The choreography was pleasing to the eye and not too distracting while being appropriate to the lyrics and tune. There was no part that felt out of place. "Stick it to the Man" is definitely their premier song, as it contains the most energy and excitement. Some of the cast seemed apathetic at times, seeming more to focus on getting words or blocking right rather than on acting, and it was apparent in their faces, as they lacked emotions. The microphones were sometimes too low to hear the actors/actresses and those without mics were near-impossible to hear.

"School of Rock" is definitely worth a watch if you're looking for a play with both serious moments and comedy and doesn't feel like the two overlap.

by Michael Gustafson of Glen Burnie

An impersonating teacher, a strict principal, a group of students, and a rock band contest? That's right! Severna Park High School's production of School of Rock.

School of Rock is about a bone-idle man named Dewey Finn that only cares about one thing, his rock music. He takes advantage of his childhood friend and even ends up impersonating him for a substituting job at a school called Horace Green Prep School. Though he loathes it he overhears his students during Music Studies with Ms. Mullins, the principle of Horace Green. The astounded Dewey then decides to risk it all prepare his class for the annual Battle of the Bands. In the course of time Dewey

“touched his students” and became a person that they idolized. Through all the problems they conquered them. The parents accepted. The students gained confidence. Together they are the School of Rock.

The production of School of Rock was enlivening and enthusiastic. The tech, sets, and props emphasized the scenes well. And the band enticed us with their seemingly effortless performance of musical rock. The performers and the performance provided us a show that would seem to be unforgettable.

Each character is unique. They all have a distinct personality and every actor portrayed them so enthusiastically. Rosalie Mullins (Elena DeMajistre). In the original musical Ms. Mullins sang pristine notes and showed excessive body language that conveyed her emotions and Elena DeMajistre did just that. The actress’s songs were sung with full confidence and audible annunciation. When she expressed herself you could clearly see how she felt with her facial expressions and body language and also in her singing.

Each personality added certain characteristics to the show that made it alluring. Billy Sandford (Eric Willner) had really grasped my attention because he had a certain spark to him that outshined everyone else at times. His flamboyant attitude and flailed dancing had humored the audience and I. During Act 2 Scene 7 “School of Rock”, Billy’s outburst towards Dewey Finn was so exaggerated I was convinced the chair was actually going to be thrown at Dewey.

Tech had maintained the show. The lighting expressed the emotion in the scenes. In Act 2 Scene 7 “Dewey’s Confession”, The red lighting emphasized the anger of the parent’s backlash towards Ms. Mullins. The sound was clear at most times and hit its cues. And the use of certain props such as the confetti referred to Dewey’s dream performance.

There is no doubt that the cast and crew had done their best to give an astounding performance. and they will leave you touched too.

by Rebecca Santos of Glen Burnie

The lights rise, and with them four planted audience members, rushing the stage with signs in hand and rock at heart -- it's hype.

And so goes the opening to Severna Park High School's latest musical production, "School of Rock". Based on the 2003 movie by the same name and adapted by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the plot follows rock star wannabe Dewey Finn (played here by Sam Hickman) on his fraudulent yet funny stint teaching at a prep school, secretly forming his students into a rock band as he contends with rent, judgmental teachers, an outwardly strict Principal and sure, the occasional hangover, too.

"School of Rock" wouldn't be what it is without the energy and long, flowing hair of its main character, and Sam Hickman's Dewey Finn had it all. Even coping with a knee injury, Hickman managed to capture the spirit of rebelliousness, displaying personality and a wide range of talent as he spoke passionately about music, sang it even better and even played his guitar live.

Principal Mullins (Elena DeMajistre), too, was excellently cast. She belted out some formidable high notes beautifully and with apparent ease, and was able to play both the stern and softer sides of the character. Her chemistry with Hickman was believable, and her acted stress at "Dewey's Confession", too. She's scary yet endearing, hilarious yet totally human, she held her notes very well and DeMajistre's performance was truly top-notch.

Now, the real Ned Schneebly (Michael Bateman) -- whom Dewey impersonates for the teaching gig -- and his girlfriend Patty (Josee Molavi) have a toxic relationship, and gosh was it entertaining as it played out. Molavi had the sass of her character down pat, and with minimal lapses sang very well. Bateman, too, was brilliant, with great comedic timing. And shoutout to the makeup and costuming department for his "Satanic Sex God" outfit.

Most with solos, the prep student ensemble was able to showcase a lot impressive vocal talent -- Tomika's (Biance Radice) "Amazing Grace", notably -- and the ensemble as a whole had a lot of pep, especially in the

beginning dances. Summer Hathaway acts as a foil for Dewey, and Isabel Gonzalez executed that well. All in all -- a few flubbed lines and off notes aside -- the primary cast was well-supported here.

But of course, the real support comes from the tech and stage crew. Scene changes could've been shorter and microphones more reliable, but the lighting -- a violent red during the teacher interrogation, and mimicking pyrotechnics during the students' Battle of the Bands performance -- was well-executed, and the fog, confetti and other effects as well. Costuming, too, was effective with some of the outfits the funny fashionista Billy (Eric Willner) proposed, and though most students couldn't play their own instruments, the very capable live band made up for this.

In the beginning, the cheers from the audience were scripted, but by the final rock performance, life was imitating art. Rock on, Severna Park High School!

by Robin Roper of Glen Burnie

School of Rock rocked at Severna Park High School last night. The entire cast was clearly giving it their all. The energy in the theatre was contagious.

School of Rock tells the transformation of a group of repressed private school students at Horace Green Preparatory School when a has-been rocker, Dewey Finn, becomes their substitute teacher. He teaches them how rock music, his personal love, can set them free from their stressful lives as students.

Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn thoroughly embodied his character, despite a serious knee injury at the previous performance. His vocals and acting were almost flawless. Elena DeMajistre as Rosalie Mullins did a fine job playing the uptight Principal of Horace Green Preparatory School. Vocally, her high notes were the highlight of her performance. Michael Bateman as Dewey's roommate Ned Schneeby phenomenal acting and singing skills. His girlfriend, Patty, played by Josee Molavi, gave a solid performance with commendable vocals and acting skills.

The supporting characters equalled the energy, acting and singing of the

lead characters. Summer Hathaway, played by Isabel Gonzalez gave a stellar performance, with great delivery of her lines and exceptional acting. Tomika, played by Bianca Radice, was top notch in her acting and amazing with her vocals, she definitely Broadway quality. Eric Willner as Billy Sandford embodied the character of the flamboyant stylist as well as demonstrating his excellent falsetto. C. Max Bachmann as Freddy Hamilton demonstrated phenomenal comedic acting as well as impressive vocals.

The set was impressive with the orchestra elevated above the stage and back light. Their sound system had some issues, but was overall good quality for a high school production. The lighting crew did an excellent job. The transitions between scenes were a little prolonged likely due to the large amount of scenery that needed to be moved.

Overall this was an thoroughly enjoyable production of School of Rock. The high energy of the cast and outstanding vocals and acting created a fantastic production. They should be very proud.

by Mallory Siuta of Glenelg Country

A head-banging, foot-tapping good time at the Severna Park musical, School of Rock. This lively performance had the crowd giddy with excitement as the students danced and sang their way through the prep school of Horace Green. Based on the 2003 Paramount movie written by Mike White, this show was a rock “n rolling all night long.

The students threw back to their middle school days, leaping on to the stage in their plaid skirts and khaki pants with blue blazers and their button up, collared white shirts and ties. The show numbers rocked the stage with songs like the iconic "You're in the Band" and "Stick It To The Man." The students, Summer Hathaway (Isabel Gonzalez), Tomika (Bianca Radice), Zack Mooneyham (Jason Bellanca), Freddy Hamilton (C. Max Bachmann), Katie (Alena Carhart), Lawrence (Jake Wernecke), Marcy (Abby Burns), Shonelle (Rachel Kalafos), Billy Sandford (Eric Willner), Mason Ward (Xavier Simms-Jackson), James (Thomas Donegan), and Madison (Caroline Patterson) jammed out through out the performance being led by none other than Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman). Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman) and Zack Mooneyham (Jason Bellanca) really took band

practice to heart and played their guitars throughout the musical numbers lending their talent to the already very talented band.

The stage was set as the lights mimicked the pyrotechnics of a real rock “n roll show, which even included fog and their own groupies. Everyone was dancing and singing including Ms. Rosalie Mullins (Elane DeMajistre), Mr. Ned Schneebly (Michael Bateman), and even the not so nice girlfriend Patty (Josee Molavi).

These students rocked their socks off in this performance and definitely were heard far a wide with their spectacular performance.

by Meghan Mercer of Indian Creek

The pop genre has become our country’s most popular music, but the legacy of “Rock and Roll” will never die. Many juveniles are not familiar with this epic era nor do they understand its role on society in the mid to late 1900s. However, everyone, young and old, was clapping their hands and stomping their feet during Severna Park High School’s production of School of Rock.

School of Rock is based on the 2003 movie called School of Rock. The musical made its Broadway debut on December 6, 2015. Its book was written by Julian Fellowes, the lyrics written by Glenn Slater, and music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber. It follows the experiences of an aspiring rock star, named Dewey Finn, who pretends to be his best friend, Ned Schneebly, so he can get money to pay rent. Dewey becomes a substitute teacher, even though he shows obvious incapability of teaching. He decides that instead of teaching typical subjects, such as math or science, he will teach the kids how to become a rock stars. He develops a connection to the kids, but will have to face the principal and the parents before being able to take the kids to the “Battle of the Bands.”

The students executed exceptional choreography and vocals. It remained clear throughout the entire show that each and every student put all the effort they could into the dances and songs. In particular, “the students” ensemble did an outstanding job in each dance and song.

Sam Hickman, who played Dewey Finn, performed exceptionally well despite his knee injury. His vocals, actions, and delivery of each line were outstanding. Sam was able to capture the charisma of the Dewey character very well and clearly demonstrated his dedication to the role. Elena DeMajistre, who performed as Rosaline Mullins, did an outstanding job and was a strong highlight of the show. Her ability to deliver perfect vocals was very impressive. The high notes she performed were outstanding and the way she portrayed Mrs. Mullins was done very well.

Sophie, portrayed by Mary Fitzell, performed with heart and care in each dance move she did. She balanced her energy throughout the entire show very well and was a standout in each dance number she participated in. In addition, Tomika, who was performed by Bianca Radice, had outstanding vocals. Her voice was absolutely beautiful, particularly when she sang "Amazing Grace." The rest of the supporting cast performed well, including Isabel Gonzalez as Summer Hathaway and Jason Bellanca as Zack Mooneyham. Both demonstrated great execution in each line and also engaged in impressive vocals. On the contrary, the transitions were very long and the show would definitely have benefited from shorter transitions. In addition, the sounds system could have been better considering that the microphones did not work properly at multiple points in the show. However, the transitions and microphone issues did not take away from the outstanding cast and supporting cast.\

The set, props, and costumes were all executed very well and showed the detail and thought put into the show. Sarah Howland and Caeden Ackerman created costumes that fit the show and added to the rock and roll theme. Kendall Bear, Ashley Rolf, and Tracy Surrectt picked props that added perfectly to the story and theme of the show.

Severna Park High School's production of School of Rock was an entertaining experience and showed the fun of the rock and roll era.

by Alexander Garing of Loyola Blakefield

When Legally Blonde has screwed you, and crushed you in it's fist, when the hackneyed songs of Hairspray have got you good and pissed, there's only one solution, a show that really shocks. Don't just sit and take it, go

see School of Rock.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock, based off the 2003 hit of the same name, has wowed audiences in the year since it's initial release with a fresh originality that is largely unseen in the theatre industry. The story revolves around Dewey Finn, a wannabe rock star who lives on his best friend Ned Schneebly's couch, and the group of middle schoolers he molds into a hardcore rock band. Together, they struggle to create a perfect number for the upcoming Battle of the Bands while simultaneously trying to appeal to their overbearing and straitlaced parents.

One of the best things Severna Park has going for them in this performance is their music. The band plays on point all throughout the show and most of the vocal performances have meritorious ranges and tones. The musical numbers highlight this, especially when the students sing in tandem with the lead actor. All of their different voices come together to form one harmonious melody that is incredible to hear.

The actors in the show seem to have a fair amount of chemistry with one another. The most standout performances come from the lead, Sam Hickman, and the students. They all really seem to connect with one another and build a relationship that deepens more and more as the show goes on.

The main ensemble, that being students, were a major musical powerhouse in the show and really shock the audience with their adept performances.

Overall, the actors of Severna Park deliver a truly enjoyable performance that balances on the great chemistry of the performers and their quality vocal work as well. They really channel the energy and vibrancy of the original movie as while being able to switch off that energy and transfer it to seriousness and sangfroid on the drop of a dime. If these actors are able to continue performing as well as they did in this show, they will truly rock on throughout the ages.

by Collin Branam of Loyola Blakefield

Rant and rave and scream and shout, and get every one of your praises

out for Severna Park High School's production of "School of Rock." With each drum beat and guitar riff, Severna Park immersed the audience into the world of rock and roll while depicting the struggle to balance freedom and discipline in search of glory and success.

Based on the 2003 movie starring Jack Black, "School of Rock" premiered on Broadway in December of 2015 with music by Andrew Lloyd Weber. The show follows big-dreamer and professional slacker Dewey Finn as he impersonates his substitute teacher roommate and teaches the musical prodigies of Horace Green Prep how to rock. On his quest to win the battle of the bands (and use the prize money to pay rent), Finn's free spirited personality constantly clashes with the uptight and proper teachers, parents, and atmosphere of the school, but through that conflict, everyone comes together and realizes that success requires both discipline and free thinking.

The cast soared on the energy from the epic, fast-paced, and catchy songs, which infected both the audience and the actors. The actors made full use of this energy and demonstrated their skills as performers by giving each character his or her own unique personality and interacting seamlessly in both spoken scenes, and fantastic dance numbers. Even more impressive, two characters played their own music while maintaining the excellent level of showmanship.

The lead actor, Sam Hickman, did an excellent job of bringing the rebellious outside-the-lines personality of Dewey Finn to life. Overcoming his injury, he owns the stage as a true rock star would. By his side, Michael Bateman, who took on the meek and unimposing role of Ned Schneebly, exemplifies the demeanor of a man broken by a dictator girlfriend. He acted neither too subtle, nor too confident, which would have either detracted from his performance or taken him out of character.

The ensemble stood out as great performers without stepping on the toes of the lead actors and detracting from the story. Specifically, Mary Fitzell, who played Sophie the roadie, rocked out and put her all into every dance number. She displayed enthusiasm from the beginning to the end, which made her the highlight of the background.

In the tech department, the lighting always accurately matched every scene. From the red and menacing mood of furious prep school parents to the epic pyro-technics vibe of the battle of the bands, the lighting always

kept the audience in the right mood to experience every aspect of “School of Rock.”

The Severna Park performance of “School of Rock” provided an amazing story, fantastic music, and excellent acting. The cast and crew transformed the auditorium, and by the end of the show, the band included not only School of Rock members, but the audience as well.

by Jay Jordan of Loyola Blakefield

The children of an expensive private school chase their dreams to rock, in Severna Park High School’s “School of Rock.” The actors develop unique characters and find their roles in the song, “You’re in the Band.”

The musical debuted on December 6 2015, but the writers based it off of the 2003 film that has the same name. The musical is still on Broadway, so as of now it has only been playing for 11 months. The story follows the main character Dewey Finn, a hard-core fan of classic rock and roll. Dewey has always dreamed of winning the Battle of the bands, but he fears of losing this dream forever when the band he created kicks him out for a new guitarist named Snake. Low on money, in danger of getting kicked out of his friend’s house where he is staying, and without a band, Dewey turns to a desperate gambit. He receives a call for his friend, Ned Schneebly. The call is offering Ned a position teaching at a luxurious private school, and Dewey accepts the position for himself. Dewey then goes into school and teaches the kids how to rock. After some shenanigans, they make it all the way to the final against the band that kicked Dewey out.

This show really revolved around the fantastic characterization and character development, especially of the students. They all managed to keep the energy high during the entire show thanks in part to the incredible energy of Sam Hickman, playing Dewey Finn. The on-stage choreography was beautifully done without stealing the attention away from the lead singers.

Sam Hickman stole the show as Dewey Finn. From the moment he stepped on the stage everyone could tell he was meant for the stage, dancing and singing with some of the most energy I have ever seen in a high school production. Michael Bateman playing Ned Schneebly offered a wide range of emotions from the sadness of a depressed husband being

pushed around by his girlfriend directly into the humorous side of his character. Elena DeMajistre belted out incredible notes in her character of the principle of the prep school, Rosalie Mullins.

One of the biggest surprises in the entire show is when Bianca Radice playing Tomika finally shone with her tremendous voice in her heart moving rendition of Amazing Grace. Matt hall showed great acting diversity playing all three roles of Snake Mr. Sanford and Gabe Brown. The tech was very impressive especially in the final numbers with the bright flashes of lights and smoke.

The show did a great job highlighting everybody's skills, and if some cast members were lacking in some things they definitely made up for them in others. By the end of the performance this show made everyone want to fight the man and rock on.

by Joey Ghirardelli of Loyola Blakefield

Do you ever feel like the pressures from "the man" are weighing you down? Well, the answer to this problem can only be found in Severna Park High School's performance of School of Rock! Severna Park's high-energy celebration of rock and roll truly brought the house down.

An immature Dewey Finn (Sam Hickman) is faced with a dilemma. Does he get a real job, or continue to chase his dream to become a legendary, hardcore rock star? Needing some cash, Dewey poses as his fastidious roommate, Ned Schneebly (Michael Bateman), in order to land a teaching job at one of the most prestigious college preparatory schools in the country. There, he stumbles upon the most unsuspecting rock band in history: juvenile prep school kids. Thus, the School of Rock is formed, and Severna Park High School calls class into session.

The show is led by an electric performance from Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn. Hickman, head-banging and shredding guitar all over the stage, embodies a true metal ferocity. His performance never dipped in energy and enthusiasm, and this charisma inspired his students to let loose and truly rock out. He accented his fiery personality with more sensitive scenes with his love interest, Principal Rosalie Mullins (Elena DeMajistre), who highlighted her performance with a robust soprano tone. These two talented actors provide a solid foundation for Severna Park's

powerful performance.

The Prep School Student ensemble was blessed with some exquisite talent. Isabel Gonzalez stood out as the strong and responsible Summer Hathaway, as she kept her peers in line with serious vocal talent. Eric Willner played the flamboyant Billy Sandford, and gave a spectacular over-the-top acting performance of the passionate young man. Last, but certainly not least, Bianca Radice wooed the audience with an amazing, almost-professional singing voice that kept the viewer waiting for more.

The Prep School Student ensemble, as a whole, generated a genuine family feeling that can only be replicated in an actual rock band. Their strong relationships created a group that was very enjoyable to watch learn together.

A rock band is only as strong as its roadies, and School of Rock's crew did not disappoint. The rock concert environment was cemented by a face-melting light show by lighting technicians Casey Clements, Laura Folts, and Colin Fox. The orchestra, led by Ryan Rendina, set a truly rocking base that got the audience on its feet. Although the show was sometimes bogged down by long transitions between scenes, the backstage crew kept the show moving. Severna Park's technical staff did an excellent job of immersing the audience in a nonstop rock spectacle.

Severna Park High School created a memorable and lively performance of School of Rock that ruthlessly stuck it to "the man!"

by Luke Scaletta of Loyola Blakefield

You don't need a degree from "Yalay" or "Cornill" to know that Severna Park's School of Rock is simply delightful.

Based off of the 2003 movie, this stage version of the beloved comedy opens with Dewey Finn and his unsuccessful life. He lives with his best friend, Ned Schneebly and can't pay his rent. When his friend gets a phone call for an opening as a substitute, Dewey pretends to be Ned and takes the job. He obviously is not qualified to teach, so he teaches his students the only thing he knows; rock.

Severna Park put on quite the production, complete with two student actors who played their own instruments, and a completely student run orchestra. The orchestra was exceptional, sounding as if they were professionals, complete with impressive riffs and challenging pieces. A standout performance came from Bianca Radice (Tomika) who exhibited astounding vocals, leaving the audience blown away at her sound.

Leading actor Sam Hickman (Dewey Finn) provided an exceptional performance, and even with an injury, he continued to be able to mimic Jack Black's original antics in the film. He executed a wonderful falsetto and played his own instrument. He was very amusing, using constant ad-libbing and even a very funny political reference. Another outstanding performance was Michael Bateman (Ned Schneebly). He executed beautiful character growth, from the spineless and weak man who let his girlfriend yell at him, to the free-spirited, strong man who learns to stand up for himself. Additionally, Eric Willner (Billy) provided for a significantly comical character. He had fantastic outbursts and a great moment of leaping over a chair to get back to his spot.

While it was sometimes tedious watching the teachers walk through the hallways, they each developed a different personality and were able to maintain them throughout the show. The standout ensemble, however, was the students. They all reacted to each scene in a way that was both believable and entertaining. The kids all developed relationships with one another throughout the show. They delivered a very emotionally touching performance in "If Only You Would Listen."

While the band was very, very good, it was often very hard to hear the vocalists over the band. In addition, the school had a limited amount of mics and some of the characters who were not provided with microphones, did not project enough and were difficult to understand. While it is understandable that the scene changes required a lot of work, the transitions were far too long, some of them, being up to two minutes. The set, however, was quite creatively executed and the cast worked well with it.

It's safe to say that Severna Park's School of Rock was an interesting and entertaining performance and that cast is on their way to the top of Mount Rock.

by Annie Morraye of Maryvale

“Where did the rock go?” It went to Severna Park High School’s production of “School of Rock”!

“School of Rock” is a musical based on the 2003 Paramount movie by Mike White with songs from the movie in addition to new music and lyrics by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Glenn Slater. It follows the story of Dewey Finn who is down on his luck and fighting to achieve his dream of being a rock star. When a chance arises for him to make 950 dollars a week, he steals the identity of his scholarly best friend, Ned Schneebly. While working at the prestigious Horace Green Prep School, he turns his class into a competitive rock band while helping them to grow into individual students.

Overall, Severna Park’s production was a red-hot rush of rock and roll that sent everyone straight to nirvana. It pulled out all the stops to astound and amuse the audience.

Sam Hickman had the rockin” guitar skills and the rollin” vocals that made him the perfect Dewey Finn. He embodied the heart, soul, and energy of the character without any hiccups. In addition, he had the challenge of dancing around the stage with an injured knee. However, his injury did not affect his performance at all. Many of the dance moves or other movements would have been difficult to pull off with a normal knee, but Hickman rose to the occasion and performed phenomenally even with this inconvenience. The female lead of the show was Elena DeMajistre who played the principal of Horace Green, Ms. Rosalie Mullins, as she underwent her transformation from being straight-laced to being a laid-back rock fan. DeMajistre sang the difficult high notes of the music effortlessly and was heard throughout the theater clear as a bell.

The student ensemble of Isabel Gonzalez, Bianca Radice, Jason Bellanca, C. Max Bachmann, Alena Carhart, Jake Wernecke, Abby Burns, Rachel Kalafos, Eric Willner, Mary Fitzell, Xavier Simms-Jackson, Thomas Donegan, and Caroline Patterson rocked the socks off of the audience from the first note that they collectively sang. Every dance move that they did was perfectly synchronized. Many of the ensemble were given opportunities to show off their individual talents as well. For example, Jason Bellanca, who played Zach Mooneyham, played all of his guitar solos

live on stage while he sang and danced. Another stand-out member was Bianca Radice, who played Tamika. She sang her heart out both when singing “Amazing Grace” and her solo in the battle of the bands. Finally, another important aspect of the ensemble were the showcase dancers, Mary Fitzell and Caroline Patterson, who stood out when they performed their solo dance moves.

The pit band was a very important aspect of this show. Led by Ryan Rendina, they were visible above the actual stage and played the live music behind the singers and two guitarists on stage with amazing skill.

There’s no way you could have stopped the “School of Rock” this weekend at Severna Park High School!

by Marianna Ghirardelli of Notre Dame

Off-beat foot stomping, children yelling, and adults screaming. All these elements come together to show the audience that some things are better than perfection.

“School of Rock”, based on the 2003 movie, tells the “liar revealed” narrative with our main character Dewey Finn pretending to be his best friend to get a job as a teacher to meet his rent to said best friend and his overbearing girlfriend. However, it becomes more about making rent when he connects with his students and bring out the hidden talents and feelings in all of them. Though not creative in its plot, the cast of Severna Park took advantage of the story line to have the spotlight set blaze to the characters and highlight their unique traits.

The cast went all-out for this performance and played up the crazy and exaggerated emotions stemming from the source material. Music is an essential component to this performance and the orchestra was utilized to maximum effect: they were visible above the stage to create the illusion of a bigger stage with various other rocker, but were made barely visible during scenes where the rock arena was not a focal point, so as not to take away focus from the performing cast. Make-up was not a necessity for this production, but the costumes, especially for the student characters, were very thoughtful. While there were moments where the microphones on the performers were too weak or too strong and

transitioning to new scenes took longer than expected, the energy created by the cast was contagious and was heard throughout the audience.

All the leads were strong and knew how to play these characters. They knew their characters and based all their mannerisms, small quips, and emotions around them like any good actor. Sam Hickman as Dewey Finn was a strong choice as he had a rocker voice that was full of energy and passion. His comedic timing was perfect and he knew when the punchline called for an over-the-top or more quiet reaction. Michael Bateman as Ned Schneebly was a pleasant surprise as he played the role with such pathos filled with quiet moments of genuine believable feelings of hurt and worry, but also some comically loud moments where he returns to his rocker roots.

This production had a large ensemble used to great potential, but also causing problems. The size makes for a believable environment, but with so many characters to focus on, not everyone gets development that some viewers would like to see. Even so, all the ensembles, especially the students, were their own character and established the world in this production.

The use of lighting and costumes were the highlights of this production. Both were used to excellent effect in setting the mood. The lights helped conveyed the emotions across to the audience and the costumes creating the sense of individuality among the cast.

Overall. "School of Rock" was an exciting production where the technical flaws were overshadowed by the intense energy that was real throughout the cast.