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Pride and Prejudice

Without a doubt, *Pride and Prejudice* was my absolute favorite of the three pieces my class has seen at the Rep these past few months. Having read the novel by Jane Austen, I felt the play was an excellent derivative of the novel. I actually preferred the stage version, because although Austen is very thorough in her character description, I find her to be more thorough in her description of scenery and events. I really enjoyed seeing the characters brought to life, and I thought the script was a fantastic adaptation of the novel, leaving out and including all the right events.

The play was also very well cast. The actors who played Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth gave an incredible performance. Mr. Darcy's trademark apathetic scowl was engaging and intriguing, and Elizabeth was delightfully contrary and bullheaded. What I admired most about the actress who played Elizabeth was her ability to make Elizabeth a relatable and likable character. In the novel, Elizabeth is so prejudiced and stubborn that at times she is as frustrating as Mr. Darcy. In the stage version, however, I found that there wasn't as much room for Elizabeth's character to be quite so stubborn and disagreeable. She is written as very sensible and unique, but not quite prejudiced. Somehow, though, the actress playing Elizabeth managed to make her character the perfect blend of lovable and strong-willed.

The supporting cast was also quite phenomenal, with memorable performances by Elizabeth's mother and father, her uncle, her young and annoying sister Lydia, her lovely older sister Jane, and Mr. Bingley. Also particularly memorable was the actress who played Mary, the quiet bookworm and Lady Catherine DeBerg's homely daughter. She had several moments of reaction that were absolutely golden, and made a mark on the audience even without a romantic leading role, proving that she was a very talented and sophisticated actress.

I also admired the production value of the play. The set was minimalistic, but functional for meeting every single scenery demand the play had. The screens with windows to create walls were effective in creating house and garden scenes, and I was really impressed with the choice to have Jane lying behind the screen when she was ill at Mr. Bingley's house. The chandeliers were also a very nice touch for differentiating between wealthy and poorer households.

Overall, I was absolutely entranced by the Rep's production of *Pride and Prejudice*. This production proved that even though Jane Austen's greatest works are about the wealthy class in the England's Regency period, the themes of her stories are still prominent and germane to modern everyday life. The play was supremely enjoyable and undoubtedly the best I've ever seen at the Rep.