

Pride and Prejudice

On March 11th, 2009, we embarked on a journey into 19th century England.

Milwaukee Repertory put on a world premiere version of the Jane Austen classic Pride and Prejudice in their Powerhouse Theater. The play was phenomenally done and left the audience very pleased.

Pride and Prejudice is about a family whose estate is entailed and who have no sons to inherit it, only five daughters. In haste to marry them off, they meet two eligible gentlemen. One is a nice rich man who's interested in their oldest daughter, and the other is a seemingly pompous man who's interested in no one. This play is full of misjudgment of character and lies that'll make one's head spin. This comedy of manners left the audience astonished from beginning to end.

The artistic team did an excellent job. The set, with minimal props, did not stand in the way of the play at all. The set was very detailed, with a beautiful mural in the back that accentuated the English countryside. The lights really gave the audience a sense of scene changes as well as the time of day. In addition, the lights added to the intensity of some scenes and contributed a comedic sense to others.

Unfortunately, Emily Vitrano as Lydia did not portray the character well. Her actions and accent were exaggerated and were not the best Lydia. Despite her performance, this play had a lot of shining stars. Lee Stark as Elizabeth made the play believable. Her movements, accent and tone of voice expressed the emotion she was trying to get across to the audience. Another shining star was Brian Vaughn as Mr. Collins. Every time he stepped on stage he gave 110%. His portrayal of Mr. Collins was exactly how the audience expected him to be, dorky and very funny.

I would definitely recommend this play to all of my friends because though it takes place in the 1800s, a lot of its themes and morals still apply today. We are all too quick to judge, and I think this play would teach a lot of people that things are not always as they seem.