



UAPRESENTS STUDENT CRITIC PROGRAM

WICKED

Review by Myrna Amavisca

WICKED is a modern musical loosely based on the classic story of the *Wizard of Oz*, but told from the perspective of the witches. When the actors first stepped onstage at Centennial Hall, the crowd began cheering as if the president had arrived.

The protagonists were Elphaba and Galinda. Elphaba, the witch of the west, had electric green skin, which covered her from head to toe. Unlike in the “Wizard of Oz”, this witch was generous and unselfish. She cared for others, especially her paralyzed sister, although at times, she appeared a bit jealous of her. Galinda, the witch of the north, was joyful, feminine, and enthusiastic. Galinda and Elphaba cross pathways when their Shiz University professors assign them as roommates. These two young women discover that they are very different from each other. Galinda is known as the alluring, appealing, and intelligent woman. Elphaba is known as the monstrous, messy, electric green beast. These women also have opposing personalities, views, and share a rivalry over the same love interest. Believe it or not, they begin to converse here and there and when you least expect it, they become very close acquaintances.

The show was brought to life by a live orchestra that played throughout the performance. The orchestra was seated directly below the actors. They were perfectly precise and their melodies seemed to fit right into every scene. The music reflected the feelings of the characters. Whether the mood was melancholy or delightful, the feeling hit you as if you were one of the entertainers.

One of the many things I enjoyed of this show was the spectacular colors. They filled the entire stage and astonished the crowd! *WICKED* without its phenomenal colors would be like a cheeseburger without any cheese. I was speechless when Elphaba was lifted to the ceiling and rainbow rays burst out from every angle of her body.

WICKED is one of the best musicals I've attended. It was completely free with no extra cost to all of the students at Desert View High School who are a part of the TRiO Talent Search. I recommend this show to *Wizard of Oz* fanatics, families, and children of all ages. I guarantee you will step out of Centennial Hall with a smile on your face.