



REVIEW

By Grace Reid-Vensel
Teen Advisory Board Member

Thursday, March 10, 2022

“A Wrinkle In Time,” takes audience members on an imaginative journey that transcends space and time, but most importantly, it tells the story of love, self-acceptance, and the greater good. The story unfolds through the eyes of Meg Murry (Piper Bozick), an insecure, awkward teenager, who’s best friend is her little brother, the brilliant and quirky Charles Wallace Murry (Colin Bozick). They have the constant wish of seeing their absent father (John Dolphin), who Charles Wallace has scarcely met. On a stormy night, he and his headstrong older sister receive an unexpected visit from who seems like a whacky, energetic young woman but is actually a celestial being with magical powers. Meg’s younger brother surprisingly knows this being well and refers to her as Mrs. Whatsit (Mary Meyer). Thereafter, with their friend, the conventionally popular Calvin O’Keefe (Jayden Greening), they embark on an adventure through space and time, led by Mrs. Whatsit and her companions, Mrs. Who (Joyce Miller) and Mrs. Which (Ponny Conomos Jahn), to save the universe from evil forces and to find Charles’ and Meg’s father.

This week, when an audience member enters the New Hazlett Theater, they will be met with a whimsical set (M.K. Hughes) and lighting design (J.R. Shaw) that perfectly captures the fantastic atmosphere of the Murrys’ journey, using geometric shapes and patterns, most notably the large, illuminated circles that appear above the platforms. Additionally contributing to this aesthetic, the costumes intricately designed by Kimberly Brown beautifully supply the element of eccentricity to Mrs. Which, Mrs. Whatsit, and Mrs. Who. The atmosphere, the storytelling, and the exuberance of wonder in the young protagonists (Colin Bozick, Piper Bozick, and Jayden Greening) make for a theatrical experience that appeals to all ages.

The most unique element to this production's storytelling is the theatrical movement, choreographed by Shana Simmons, which keeps the story moving at an enjoyable pace. The ensemble of dancers (Devan Cochell, Mairead Roddy, and Sami Roth) appear as trees, wind, water, and beautifully represent the act of "tessering." This usage of movement only increased the atmosphere of fantasy and further activated the audience into joining the three protagonists in their wonderful and brave adventure.

Beginning as an argumentative teenager with overwhelming insecurities, Meg Murry's journey of self-acceptance, love, and hope was transparent in Piper Bozick's performance. Colin Bozick, who plays Charles Wallace Murry, charmed and delighted the audience with a performance that was beyond his years. Jayden Greening's (Calvin O'Keefe) kindness and friendship to the Murry siblings contributed greatly to the sentimentality and heart of this play. Audiences can feel the apparent connection of friendship in these three.

Guiding them through their journey, Mrs. Which (Ponny Conomos Jahn), Mrs. Whatsit (Mary Meyer), and Mrs. Who (Joyce Miller) were just as fun-spirited, and hilarious, as they were thoughtful and touching in their performances. Along the way, the three children meet many characters in the places they travel, played by Chelsea Bartel, who always brings a delightful energy and quick-witted comedy to the stage; and by John Dolphin, who plays both their loving, distant father, and the daunting Man with the Red Eye. The Murry siblings' mother, Mrs. Murry, played by Heather Irwin, is an intelligent and important mother figure in children's literature. Irwin gives the audience a caring and witty performance.

Prime Stage Theatre's *A Wrinkle In Time*, written by Brian Wongchaowart and Wayne Brinda E.d.D., adapted from the novel by Madeleine L'Engle runs from March 4-13 in-person at the New Hazlett Theatre and streams March 14-27th. You don't want to miss this!