

My Fair Lady

BY SEAMUS HARTY

For a lot of the people who went to see or were part of the school musical of 2018, I think it is fair to say that none of us are truly certain about where the journey that was "My Fair Lady" began. I can roughly pin point it back to a school announcement around May 2017 for 'Open Auditions'. Most of us went in that day, sang our part and let the thought of the musical drift away as we warmly welcomed those eagerly anticipated three months of summer. Indeed most of us students did but certainly not the teachers.

Upon our re-acquaintance with the routine of school life in September we were also swiftly introduced to a routine of auditions in Ms. Costelloe's room and, as the days of auditions went on, I was consistently blown away by the quantity of talented students that the school had to offer. It was remarkable, from powerful singers to captivating actors, my fellow auditionees had talent in abundance and it appeared that no matter what musical we decided on, we had the potential to do something memorable. However, that potential needed serious grafting and moulding.

To this very day, I still cannot imagine how hard a job it must have been to both decide on the right musical for us to do and furthermore, how hard it must have been to cast such a musical. Despite the difficulty of this task I feel every student fitted the part handed to

them without question.

Once the musical was cast, that was where the real fun began! Most days were spent staying back after school or staying in at lunchtime for rehearsals, be it for choreography with Ms. Costelloe and Ms. Thornton; singing with Ms. Sexton and Ms. O'Carroll, or acting with Mr. Behan from October right until January. The most striking thing for me, upon reflection, was just how well everyone got on with one another, between teachers and students we worked really worked with and for each other. We really did gel as a group and come show time we were prepared to leave every ounce of energy we possessed on the Siamsa Tire stage. However, one of the vital reasons why we were so ready, I believe, relates to the saying "If you look the part; you feel the part", and with the dedication and commitment of the illustrious Ms. Barry we most unequivocally looked the part!

Months of hard work behind the scenes with Mr. O'Sullivan and his select group of set designers along with the magnificent artwork of our very own T.Y.'s manufactured this unparalleled set that could have easily been mistaken for a set straight from the stage of the West End.

When it came to the days of the shows I felt we grew into our characters and roles even

further. Of course this became a rather more do-able challenge due to the knowledge that all our props and necessities were in the best of care with Ms. Condon and Ms. Carey and, of course, the assurance of our director Mr. Behan that we were at our peak as actors. This sense of calm was also aided and displayed by our consistent blaring of eighties tunes in the dressing room where our biggest concern became "Who's on the aux?"

The shows went quick and fast, with much success, and relief that we had performed to our potential. If I'm honest, I do find it quite peculiar that it's all over and I personally may never get the chance to do something similar like this again. Ironically enough, you find the things that you might have once whinged and complained about, such as rehearsals, are really the things you miss most of all now. The craic, the music, the laughter, the ability to be in an alternate life, if even for just a little while, but, most of all, the people.

I will miss everything about the musical! However, the cycle of the Mounthawk production machine has already recommenced for the 2019 play and the show must go on! Nevertheless "My Fair Lady" will have a place in the history of this school forever and us with it.

