

Glorietta Students have 'a Ball' with Musical Presentation of Cinderella

Submitted by Jennifer Rogers



Abby Severson as Cinderella and Matt Gill as the prince

Ninety-six fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in Glorietta Elementary School's 13th spring musical, *Cinderella*, on May 4 and 5. The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is based upon the classic fairytale in which a young woman, forced into a life of servitude by her cruel stepmother and self-centered stepisters, dreams of a better life. With the help of her zany Fairy Godmother, Cinderella is transformed into a Princess and finds her Prince.

As charming as its Prince, Glorietta's presentation of *Cinderella* had all the winning theatrical ingredients of song, dance and comedy to entertain audiences of all ages. Glorietta's large-scale production included engaging choreography, innovative sets, and darling costumes. The production hit all the right musical notes with songs including "Impossible: It's Possible" and "10 Minutes Ago."

"It has been a true pleasure watching these kids put their hearts and souls into this beautiful musical production of *Cinderella*," said musical co-producer

and Glorietta parent, Leslie O'Brien. "Through their tireless dedication and, at times, humor, the tech and set crews and entire cast worked together to bring this classic fairytale to life."

Ron Pickett, a professional award-winning actor, returned to direct his 14th show at Glorietta Elementary School. Musical Director Ralph Severson celebrated his 18th year. Parent volunteers of the production included co-producers Leslie O'Brien and Shelli Brudzinski, and technical director Lara Dutto.

Photo provided

Carnival 4 Kids at SMC a Huge Success



More than 200 elementary students from Oakland and Concord attended the 10th annual "Carnival 4 Kids" at Saint Mary's College April 27, each accompanied by a Saint Mary's College "big buddy." The afternoon included a pretend journey

around the world, with food, carnival games, music, dancing, and a look inside police and fire vehicles and a hot air balloon. The event was sponsored by Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action. *C. Dausman*

Tim Burton, Johnny Depp and a Vampire Soap Opera – Oh My!

By Derek Zemrak

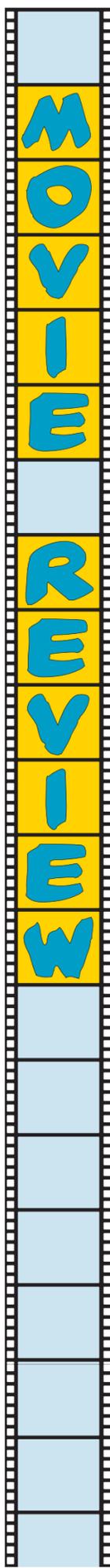


"Dark Shadows" is Hollywood's latest attempt to take a popular television series and bring it to the big screen. This was a gothic soap opera that ran on TV from 1966 to 1971, with a total of 1,225 episodes. It is interesting to note that originally "Dark Shadows" did not have a vampire story line until Barnabas Collins was introduced as one in 1967. The ratings skyrocketed!

Fast-forward to 2012: What is Academy Award-nominated director Tim Burton's (Beetlejuice, Edward Scissorhands) interpretation of the vampire soap opera? A comedy! Burton has stated that he was a big fan of the television series, running home each day from school to catch the new episode. Burton would have been eight at the time and I guess at that age, he found "Dark Shadows" a comedy. Burton cast his favorite; three-time Oscar nominee Johnny Depp (Pirates of the Caribbean, Ed Wood) as the lead, Barnabas Collins, who is solid as the sexy vampire. Depp can play any role offered to him; he is one of the best actors of our generation and way overdue to receive an Oscar! The ensemble cast includes the beautiful, three-time Oscar nominee Michelle Pfeiffer (Dangerous Liaisons) as Elizabeth Collins Stoddard; the striking Eva Green (Casino Royale) as Collins' former girlfriend – a witch who cast a spell on him years ago; and Oscar Nominee Jackie Earle Haley (Little Children) as the quirky caretaker Willie Loomis. I am not sure if Burton also ran home from school to watch "The Addams Family" but Dark Shadows was not a comedy. The film version in my mind is more of a representation of "The Addams Family;" even Barnabas has a little Morticia Addams in him.

It is always an experience to see a Tim Burton film, which needs to be seen on the big screen, as he is the master of creative, bizarre cinematography. No one has his "eye." The set decorations and 1970s period piece costumes receive big kudos! "Dark Shadows" is a highly entertaining film with some graphic vampire killings. Anyone who was a true fan of the television series will be disappointed. The rest of us will find it an enjoyable 113 minutes!

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news.



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