Fiddler' Opens; Inspires Roller Coaster Atmosphere

Jim Eisenhardt and Sarah Swanson make an accurate portrait of married life as Tevye and Golde in Creighton Performing Arts Production of "Fiddler on the Roof." Courtesy of Performing Arts

Jim Eisenhardt, as Tevye, and Sarah Swanson, as Golde, star in Creighton Performing Arts Production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Golde (Sarah Swanson), his shrewish wife, is the only other character receiving significant attention in the script.

Swanson and Eisenhardt interact as if they actually have been married for years, touching and arguing in perfect sync with one another. Their duet, "Do You Love Me?", highlights this, as they alternate lines and finally merge voices as they clasp hands in a pleasing portrait of man and wife.

The costuming and make-up help Swanson appear closer to Golde's age, something which is overlooked on several of the male characters, whose fake beards hang shabbily off their faces, while other actors suffer from over-dyed facial hair. The entire costume of the Rabbi (Barry Summer) seems skewed, which probably is not helped by the fact that he wiggles about in an end zone dance in as he delivers his lines.

Motel (Parker Byron) is portrayed as a weak-willed tailor with a decidedly nasal whine. But when the time comes for him to perform his major number, "Miracle of Miracles," he not only falls into a deep, heroic tone different from the portrayal of the character, but he seems only in passing to notice Hodel, his beloved wife-to-be and primary object of the song.

The distractions are small in contrast to the grand events and stirring songs. Shabby beards and robot actors will not be remembered at the end of the evening, just as the thrill of the roller coaster ride banishes the memory of waiting in line to ride it.

Editor's Note: Due to time constraints the above review is of Wednesday night's dress rehearsal.

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