

Central Midwest Ballet Academy Newsletter

*Special Edition**The Little Matchstick Girl, holiday magic in a theater*

For the fifth consecutive year, The Little Matchstick girl, returned to the Bartell theater in downtown Madison. Unlike previous years, seats were reservation based, due to the show's rising popularity and fast ticket sales. I was lucky enough to have gotten tickets to the Friday evening show, and the final Sunday show.

Based off of the Hans Christian Anderson tale, The Little Matchstick Girl taught me to be grateful for everything I have and to spread kindness, especially during the holiday season. One of the things that makes The Little Matchstick Girl unlike any other holiday shows offered in the area is the combination of music, speech, and dance. It was interesting being on the other side of the curtain for the first time and seeing how much depth the narration adds. It makes the story simple to understand, and makes it more interactive. Especially during the final scene with the Little Matchstick Girl, the narrator exiting the stage illustrated the isolation and loneliness the poor girl must be feeling, and it created a more intimate one on one moment between the dancer and viewer.

My favorite pieces from this year's shows were the brand new Watch Makers dance or the re-choreographed Adagio Divert. In addition to the fun props, the Watch Makers dance stood out to me because of the difference in style unlike the other dances from the market scene. The dance featured more contemporary aspects with flexed feet and wolf jumps. Halfway through the piece, the music paused and one of the Watch makers watches seems to have broken. This was when the crowd broke into laughter, as the dancers faces displayed bewilderment and craziness. This was a stark contrast, compared to Adagio Divert in the second act parade. Adagio Divert was made up by only 5 dancers, but their slow and fluid movement filled the entire stage. The pale green lighting complimented the dancers flowing pastel pink costumes well, and the entire piece was very unified. This dance was very calming and beautiful.

All of the dancers did an amazing job, and it was a fun experience to be able to see the ballet I had danced in many times from a different perspective. One thing I wished I could tell myself as a dancer anxiously waiting back stage in previous years, is how important acting and smiling was. No matter how perfectly the step was executed, the primary focus was always the upper body and the face. Watching the show for the first time is when I finally realized that

I highly recommend this show as it is appealing to all audience members. For those who are looking for a cheesy holiday romance, love and family, some magic, or to start an annual holiday tradition.

The Little Matchstick Girl is the show for you!

About the Editor

Nana is a sophomore at Madison West High School and dances in the standard 3 division and Madison West Dance Team.

