



## Hayfield High School

### The Addams Family

2019-2020

#### Ensemble Comments

##### [Performance] Comments:

Everyone in this ensemble was very committed to the show and had lots to do throughout the production. It's hard to be both the ensemble and the run crew, but you guys really gave it your all and it showed! I thought scene changes were handled quite well and were smoothly executed at your hands. Kudos to you guys for being so dedicated.

I thought this ensemble moved really well and had a strong understanding of their choreography, moving gracefully and on beat throughout the show. I encourage this group to do more acting exercises in the early stages in rehearsal to help them get a sense of how they incorporate their acting skills into scenes. Your songs as well as your movement are an extension of the story. I would encourage this group to go even deeper with their personal character development, though the ancestors are one group, you are all individual.

##### [Performance] Comments:

Congratulations on getting this show up and running! It is a true testament to the dedication of the entire ensemble to see a full production come to life, and this show is not small feat. I would encourage everyone to continue playing with their characters. Even though the ancestors are ghosts and ghouls, don't be afraid to have fun with them! Energy is infectious, so the more fun you have on stage, the more fun the audience will have as well. Every character in this production is completely unique, so as an ensemble, you have a great opportunity to explore each character and make them shine. When a character has no lines, the physicality, movements, and expressions of the character can be extremely effective in making them stand out. For example, when the ancestors are on stage watching the action, how does each of them feel about what's going on? Who is disgusted by the Beineke's, and who is curious about them? Is anyone proud of Pugsley for meddling with Wednesday, or is there anyone who feels for Wednesday and wants her to be happy? Asking these types of questions in every scene can help you to develop unique characters and reactions to everything that is going on.

When working with an ensemble of this size and not all having microphones, it is extremely important that everyone in the ensemble is singing and projecting for all songs, so that the audience does not miss any lyrics or harmonies that come exclusively from the ensemble. Also, it was clear that everyone in the ensemble had put a great deal of work into the dance numbers, so as a next step, I would challenge you to keep playing with the characters in every number to help bring the same energy and fun throughout the production. The ensemble has a great foundation built for this production, so I would encourage you to keep building upon the fundamentals with volume and energy to make the ensemble truly shine!

##### [Performance] Comments:



This overall was a nice sized cast so it was very clear to see that the cast worked together to make up the strong ensemble. I think your movement really shown through the most because of the space for execution. Well done. Also, this was the schools first performance with this program! So all of the larger numbers were made up of the entire cast. One number that particularly caught my eye was the ending number with all members Move Towards the Darkness. At this point in the show it was clear all cast were very comfortable on stage and they were confident in their performances; I would have loved to see this enthusiasm throughout the entire production! Motivation was detected with all movements and vocals were coming across clearly. Nerves were much more present in the beginning of the show but confidence was greatly built throughout. Keep building together to ensure that you are bringing an even energy to each large group number.

In moving into future productions where I would love to see energy put in is getting more comfortable with the transition between scene to musical number. There needs to be a clear transition between speaking and signing. Develop your characters and then figure out what they would be doing to be able to transfer more natural into the musical numbers.

As this group continues to build out their program here, I would encourage them to dive deep into character development. Really asking themselves the questions of who am I in the world of this play? How do I feel about what is happening... ext. That will help drive some of the transition pieces I wrote about above.

## Run Crew Comments

### [Technical] Comments:

The most helpful thing that a backstage tech student could do at Hayfield from my perspective is helping with the curtains. They are on a complicated system, and it can be a challenge to master them. Also curtains are really expensive so you want to be careful with set pieces and props tearing or damaging them.

Having one or two experts on the tech team is what I'd recommend, and those students can help with paging curtains (holding them out of the way) for set changes. They can also assist with those set changes on and off stage, though having the actors carry things is great too, and builds camaraderie!

In a space like yours, the curtains are essential to the show, treat them as if they a character of their own!

## Tech Crew Comments

### [Performance] Comments:

The ensemble did a wonderful job acting as the run crew for this production and got things on and off stage in a timely manner. At times things were forgotten onstage but none of it was



detrimental. Continue to build out systems that will help ensure everyone knows what they are responsible for.

I encourage your team to work on recruiting more students (If possible- I know that is dream) to work just as the build/run team and to appoint one of those students as a stage manager. Having a stage manager will help not only set changes run smoothly but also mend situations like mics not being on immediately when an actor walks or realizing that a mic hasn't been turned off when the student is backstage. Those little details will be ironed out in time, but having someone who leads and organizes the crew might be a huge game changer for this group.

The set looked great and I thought worked as a simple yet versatile backdrop! Thanks for the hard work!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Congratulations on getting this show up and running! This show is no small feat, and the scenic transitions are no exceptions. There are a ton of different scenes in this show, and the tech crew did a great job of making sure that making sure every set piece was in its proper place for each scene.

There were a few transitions that ran a little long, so I would encourage the crew to find ways to continue working on running scene changes as quickly as possible. For example, it may be helpful to have people backstage who can help hold curtains aside and rearrange them as set pieces come on and off. There were a couple of times where pieces got caught on the curtains, so having a couple of people help avoid that situation is a great way to help transitions run as efficiently as possible. Also, make sure that everyone is ready to anticipate any props needed during the production. When Fester was getting ready to sing "But Love," his ukulele was not handed off from backstage and he started the song without it. The actor was able to recover, but remember to stay mindful of all backstage elements. Overall, well done!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

I really focused here on all of the scene changes. It was clear the cast helped each other out and worked together with big changes and were generally executed with good speed; only some minor catches of the curtain. I would encourage this group to run a scene transition before each evening of the performance, pick one that gave you trouble the night before and work on the execution. This will help get that out of the way for the evening, you have already done it once, so it will be smooth sailing for that evening's show.

## **Lightning and Sound Comments**

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Considering how new this technology was to your staff, the show ran fairly well! I thought the consistent blue lighting onstage was a really unique idea and it definitely helped make the family look more pale and spooky while also bringing attention to Wednesday and Alice's yellow outfits.

In the future I encourage your lighting designer to play around even more with different colors coordinating with characters or moods to help elevate the bigger picture. There were a couple



sound hiccups throughout the show that I think will easily be mended with more experience with the equipment. For issues like a mic cutting out or music being late, I encourage your team to drill these situations with your actors as most of them are new to theater and had never experienced this before this show. Thank you for all your hard work!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

The lighting and sound teams for this production as a whole did an effective job of covering the action on stage. Overall, cues came in on time for music and lights. Since there was canned music for this production, it can be tricky to time out the starting of songs so that actors have all of their lines said, but also not be waiting for the song to start. For the most part, the board operator did a good job of balancing these needs and allowing the music to run as smoothly as possible. Mic levels overall were well-balanced, and helped to enhance characters throughout the show.

Given that there were limited microphones to use, would there have been a way to share microphones between a few characters so that a couple members of the ensemble could have been mic'd for certain songs? This would help to ensure that every part and element of every song could be heard. As an additional side note, the pre-show and intermission music was a great addition to keep the audience's energy up during this production!

Light cues as a whole also ran smoothly throughout the production. It was clear to see that the actors were comfortable with lighting on stage, and at no point during scenes or transitions did anyone seem unable to find their way. There was an instance where the spotlight was late coming in. Make sure to anticipate entrances so that characters are not left in the dark. As a whole, however, the team did a great job of making sure everything ran smoothly!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

There was great use of different colors of lighting to show the general somberness. I would encourage this designer to go even further with their discovery of the use of color and how it can really drive the scenes.

Audio was well executed from what I could tell. Good work juggling the music and the mics, things were balanced well.

### **[Technical] Comments:**

The spotlight operator was excellent! I was really impressed with their ability to adjust the size and other settings on the spotlight and focus it on the leads.

With the new equipment this school has, I see this as a great opportunity to train student technicians in on it. Consider asking Spotlight if they would pay to have someone come in and give you and students a crash course on the equipment.

## **Front of the House Comments** *(Ushers, Playbills, Ticketing Process, Intermission Elements)*



## **[Performance] Comments:**

You guys had a great turnout and I think you would be able to raise a lot of money if you expanded your front of house to selling concessions or candy grams for your cast and crew! It would be great in future years if the lobby was filled with notes from parents and friends as well as extra opportunities to donate to the department.

## **[Performance] Comments:**

The theater space was easy to find, and once inside, the environment was extremely lively and entertaining to help set the tone for the show. I would encourage you to consider thinking about a space where you might be able to hang headshots of the cast and crew as a way for the audience to become familiar with who they are going to be seeing onstage. Ushers and Front of House Volunteers did a great job of helping audience members find seats, and adding extra seating as needed.

## **[Performance] Comments:**

All were very friendly and there was no issues getting tickets.

## **Costume Crew Comments**

### **[Performance] Comments:**

The costumes for this show were visually stunning! I loved the ancestors in all white and how the eras that they were representing. At times I was concerned about the length of some of their dresses as they were doubling as the run crew, it would've been detrimental if someone had tripped, but that didn't happen! Everything was okay for this show but it's something to consider in the future if you have the ensemble moving props on and off stage.

I appreciated that the family themselves were dressed in their classic outfits, seeing them as the curtain came up made me immediately nostalgic. Thank you for all your hard work!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

There were not a large number of quick changes in this production, but everyone on stage seemed comfortable moving in their costumes. Every costume piece was functional for the purposes of the production and served to enhance characters overall.

When the members of the Addams family all appeared to be "normal" and came in with additional costume pieces, they seemed comfortable and put together for the most part. I did notice that the apron Grandma was wearing was not tied. To help make sure that the piece does not fall off her shoulders during the scene, is there someone backstage who can help to loosely tie it for her? That way it could still be quickly removed, but would also be able to be worn properly. As a whole, the costume crew did an effective job of making this show run smoothly. Well done!

### **[Performance] Comments:**



The ghost/ancestor costumes were very period correct but did seem a bit hard to dance in and show off the dance moves.

## Overall Tech Team Comments

### [Performance] Comments:

For this group I would encourage greater communication in scene change moments. For the most part these went well, but with a little more choreography, they all would have been stronger. I think you have a great start here, utilizing actors in scene changes is really smart and in some ways makes things happen faster.

### [Performance] Comments:

As a whole, the tech team effectively managed this production, and helped to bring the world of the Addams family to life on stage! Now that there is a solid technical foundation for this production, I would encourage everyone to focus on the specific details in order to refine the production further.

Finding efficiencies in scene transitions, double checking additional costume elements before characters go onstage, and anticipating spotlight shifts are all ways to help bring the tech team's performance to the next level!

### [Performance] Comments:

This group of students played roles on stage and off stage quite well. Continue to define assignments in scene changes. I have found that scene shift plots are the most useful tools a show can have. If you don't have a template for these, reach out to Spotlight and have them send over a few examples. They clearly layout who does what, and when. There is no question of responsibility.

Congratulations on the show.

### [Technical] Comments:

The students on the technical crew were a lot like the performers--very new to what they were doing, and not quite sure what to do or when to do it. Which is understandable! Something that will help immensely will be establishing distinct roles and assignments for students. Your essential roles are going to be someone to call cues during tech and performances (probably a stage manager), a backstage/assistant stage manager and run crew. Students in each role should be provided resources about what that role entails and what their expectations are, or trained in with specific instructions by the school's TD.

The three or four tech students who I was introduced to me seemed friendly, eager to be there and to help. As times their skills were underutilized during the run. I would encourage them to keep that their energy and be on the look out for different ways they can help engage. You are all integral to the success of the show. Here's a little bit about what each role could do:



Stage manager: prompt the light operator and the sound operator when to change the cues.

They would have a master script with all the places that things change written down in, and they would sit next to the operators and say "Go" when the cue takes place. This would also be really helpful to have someone who prompts when microphones need to be turned on and off.

Backstage manager: Help actors know when to go on and offstage, which entrances to use, when to have props or furniture ready to go onstage. If possible, has a way to communicate with the stage manager.

Run crew: People backstage ready to help with scene shifts and other tasks that often need to happen like bringing a prop to the other side of the stage, or dealing with other backstage emergencies.

## Final Remarks Team Comments

### [Performance] Comments:

I really appreciated all the hard work that went into this show and how even if things didn't go as planned, your actors kept rolling with the punches and put on a great show. The costumes were absolutely stunning and fit the production perfectly, whoever designed the characters' outfits, makeup and hair has a really good eye. I would continue to encourage students to be involved in these processes as much as possible! Also, kudos to the person doing the spotlight! They rarely had a break and did a fantastic job keeping up with the actors!

As your sound and lighting equipment is new, and with so many new faces to the stage, I would encourage this group to start working with mics and lighting from day one in order to avoid surprises during showtime, if this is possible. Encourage any students who audition but aren't casted to help as run crew and appoint one of them as a stage manager to help communicate with the director and board operators during the show and you'd be golden. Also, consider dedicating the beginning time of rehearsal to acting and singing exercises that are unrelated to the show but help students strengthen their acting and singing skills. Go over basics of theater like projection, blocking, cheating out, etc. even more than you think you need to in order to make it instinctual for your students.

### [Performance] Comments:

It was so fun to see all of these characters come to life on stage! There were some very fun and entertaining choices being made that caused this show to be so fun to watch. Everyone in the cast had a solid vocal foundation, and was comfortable with all of the blocking and choreography. It was great to see the dedication of everyone involved!

Keep working on the fundamentals of diction, volume, and pacing to continue building a solid foundation for any performance. Even when characters are known for being somber, don't be afraid to let the audience see the energy behind your performance, as that will truly help to bring your characters to life! I would also encourage you to continue working on diving into your characters' thoughts and relationships in every scene to help you add more layers and depth to each and every character as we follow their journey throughout the production.

### [Performance] Comments:



How exciting to have a new program with lots of new equipment! What I really enjoyed about your production was well the students created a family feeling on stage, it was clear they worked hard to develop their characters together. I also really enjoyed that even with a small cast, there were large dance numbers that did well to really fill the stage.

My biggest suggestion for future productions is to really work vocally with the kids. First in projection and getting their voices heard in the back of the room and also breath support during key changes.

I would encourage this group to send their voices to the back of the room. I do wonder if there is a chance for this group to do some sort of group exercises on stage where they practice filling the space with sound.

Congratulations on making this leap. I am so excited to watch this program grow!

### **[Technical] Comments:**

After our conversations, I believe that at this point, having a show at all is a huge huge huge success for Hayfield HS. I'm super excited for you about the new lighting instruments, the new microphones, everything that has been invested in this program to make the students shine onstage. It's a big thing to try something new like this after 20+ years of only doing straight plays with a different theater director.

You made it this far, and the show is going to open and it's going to have a huge impact on these students who are involved with it. I hope everyone is proud of the work being done here in Hayfield.

A huge thing for the cast and crew will be routines. I would suggest getting a sign in sheet, having students sign in when they get there to show that they've arrived. Having a stage manager who can help keep the cast and crew on a schedule is also a great next step. They can remind you when to take breaks, when it's time to move onto the next thing in order to finish all that you had planned for the day, etc. This could be a student or a community member, but should be someone who is organized. It is a great way to empower a student leader in your group.

Anyway, routines will be huge. As well as training. Teach your tech students how to properly put on a microphone, how to position it relative to an actor's mouth, where to place the pack and how to coil the cable so it doesn't get bent. I know that whoever set up your sound system set it up and said don't touch anything, but I would so strongly encourage you to learn how to use those microphone receivers and how to scan for available frequencies so that you've got the capability of finding better channels for your mics. This can be a really cool piece of technology for students to learn and get their hands on, so I'd encourage you to teach a student how to do that.

## Individual Performance

**Student Name:** Ashley Augustin  
**Character Name:** Lead Dancer-Beauty Queen



## **[Performance] Comments:**

Ashley really took hold of the stage when she entered each scene. Her costuming and makeup was very fitting and appropriate for the show. Where I encourage Ashley to give her direction in her next productions is take the energy she clearly shows in her dance movements and find her comfortable range. Put her energy that she puts into dance and share with her vocals and I can see her volume control dramatically increasing. Movement and choreographed dance was excellent, pirouettes were executed solidly with no loss of confidence. Again, I would love to just see the effort in her dance transfer over into her vocals. I would encourage her to fill her gut with air and practice sending her sound to the back of the space.

## **[Performance] Comments:**

You did a great job of bringing the elegant movement of the Beauty Queen ancestor to life! Your movements were focused and in tune. It was clear to see that you were comfortable with all of the choreography on stage. Your confidence in the movements was great to see. Also, you effectively incorporated the character of the Beauty Queen, as your movements fit the grace of the character. When singing as part of an ensemble with no microphones, it is incredibly important to project. To make sure that the audience does not miss any lyrics or harmonies, don't be afraid to add some extra volume to your singing.

I would encourage you to bring the same energy that displayed during the dance numbers to the rest of the character as well. When observing the action during the scenes, how does the Beauty Queen interpret what's happening around her? How does she feel about each of the other characters? Even without lines, you can still react to everything that happens on stage. Asking these types of questions and incorporating the character's feelings and reactions into the scene will allow you to add an additional layer of depth to the character. As a whole, the physicality that you brought to this role really helped the character to shine in this production, and finding ways to integrate the same physical energy that you have into your vocals and characterization will help you to bring your performance to the next level!

## **[Performance] Comments:**

Ashley did a wonderful job in her performance within the ensemble and was clearly a leader for the rest of the group. Ashley had a strong understanding of the choreography and kept her rhythm well throughout the show, making her someone that the rest of the ensemble could refer to if lost during a number. That can be a lot of pressure so kudos to you for knowing the choreography front to back! Your dancing was strong throughout the show and I thought you especially did well during your small solo in "Crazier than You" you moved very gracefully when acting as Wednesday's arrow.

Throughout the show I noticed that you were assigned the soprano part and it can definitely be the most daunting section with all those high notes and if you aren't careful you could injure your voice. I encourage Ashley to work with her vocal directors on building technique and strengthening her head voice so she can sing those high notes effortlessly in her next role. Congrats on a great show!



**Student Name:** Brandon Ryan

**Character Name:** Fester

**[Performance] Comments:**

Brandon was very committed to the role of Fester; through his bodily movements into his vocals, he remained Fester throughout which was fantastic to see. I appreciated Brandon's full commitment into this character including comfortableness with the costume and makeup and movement choices remained solid throughout the show.

Where I encourage Brandon to push his development is vocally. Volume wise he was consistent throughout and had no issues here. More so I would love to see Brandon take advantage of what spotlight provides and also what his vocal teacher has to provide at school to finding where he really is comfortable range wise. Once finding his comfortable range, really hone in on his breathing techniques here.

Congrats on the production, Brandon!

**[Performance] Comments:**

What a fun character to bring to life on stage! You did a great job of capturing Fester's energy for this production! The characterization that you brought to the character physically and vocally truly helped to enhance your performance. When using a specific character voice, make sure that you maintain your volume and diction throughout your performance. Fester has some hilarious lines, and you have great comedic delivery, so making sure that the audience can always hear you will help those jokes and quips to land even more effectively. You built a very strong foundation for this character that set up some great interactions. For example, when Alice came over to Fester during "Waiting," you had wonderful reactions to everything she did. I would encourage you to continue exploring Fester's relationships with the other characters on stage to find and play with more of these types of moments.

You have a strong vocal foundation that you brought to this character. As when speaking, make sure to maintain your volume while singing in order to ensure that the audience does not miss any lyrics. Also, when working with canned music, it can be tricky to always be on cue with the music. Make sure that you continue working with the tracks so that you are comfortable at all times. That way, if you lose your place in the track, you can quickly jump back into the song and keep going. As an additional helpful tip, keeping track of where the dancers are in the choreography at each moment can help you to realign yourself with where you are in the song. Even with this difficulty, you did a great job of remaining in character and showing the heart of the character throughout the song. Overall, well done, and congratulations on your performance!

**[Performance] Comments:**

Brandon had high energy from the first curtain call and he was really committed to his character through body language and facial expressions from beginning to end. During numbers like One Normal Night and Moon and Me, you had wonderful vocal moments specifically with your chest voice. You have a naturally rich vibrato in those lower notes and I encourage you to work with your vocal directors to help you strengthen your middle and head voice. There was a moment in Moon and Me where the music kept going after your solo; if you ever find yourself going faster



than your instrumental or even forgetting your lines, don't hesitate to just say anything that makes sense to the plot. The audience doesn't know that something isn't going as planned unless you point it out to them, so do your best to keep entertaining them or find a way to pass attention over to whoever has the next line and hope that they remember their line. If at any point before opening night you worry that you'll forget a line or rush through your solo, the best thing to do is tell your director so you can spend extra time rehearsing it or even come up with a plan B if things go awry. I hope you continue with theater as you seemed to have a natural instinct for acting and performing! Congrats on a great performance!

**Student Name:** Corbin Krueger

**Character Name:** Lucas

**[Performance] Comments:**

Corbin had a solid performance throughout, showing his love and dedication to Wednesday. He played well into his costuming and makeup and he showed solid character development into growing his family.

I encouraged Corbin to push himself into future productions and hone in on where his comfortable with singing and only then push himself outside of this. I would encourage him to also dive into some scenic break down work. Really define the why of each scene, Why am I here, what do I want, how am I going to get it? How do you feel about those on stage around you? Who is a friend, who is an obstacle. This will help you settle into the world of the play even more!

**[Performance] Comments:**

What a fun opportunity to play a character that can contrast so wonderfully with some of the insane members of the Addams family! You made some great character choices that really helped to show different the world is that Lucas comes from compared to his secret fiancé. I would encourage you to keep exploring these differences and how they would affect the character. For example, when meeting Gomez and Morticia, are they what Lucas was expecting Wednesday's parents to be like? If so, how is he afraid his own parents will react? If they aren't what he was expecting, how can you show the audience his surprise and how he recovers? Continuing to build on these types of moments throughout the production will help to add more dimension and levels to the character.

You have a strong vocal foundation that you were able to bring to this character. Don't be afraid to add more characterization elements and moments to your songs. This will help some of those lower notes to be a little easier to sing, and will help to bring more energy to the songs. Also, I would encourage you to be conscious of your movements and gestures throughout the performance. When Lucas is singing or speaking, how can you help articulate what he's feeling through the physicality of the character? When singing, don't be afraid to plant your feet rather than swaying. This will help the audience to stay focused on the lyrics and continue to follow the action of the play. It is also helpful to keep the audience's sightlines in mind when onstage. Making sure to cheat yourself out slightly will help the audience to be able to see all of the character's reactions and expressions. Congratulations on your performance!

**[Performance] Comments:**



Corbin's portrayal of Lucas was well-rehearsed and energetic. Corbin understood his character well and I enjoyed watching him on stage during scenes because of his strong facial expressions guiding the audience through his perspective of the situation. You have a great tenor voice and I thought it was awesome the way you didn't shy away from the singing in this role, you projected your voice incredibly well throughout the space and your diction was consistently clean. During

One Normal Night, I recognized a habit you have that I used to have when I was first performing in theater, and that was keeping tall vowels while singing. I personally did this because I was in choir for years before theater, but regardless of where you picked up this tendency don't worry about it - it's an easy fix! Remember that in musical theater you're playing a character and your vowels can be lazy and wide because that's how people speak. I suggest listening to any musical of your choice (something with American actors) and study how they have informal vowels while still keeping their mouths open wide enough for their sound to travel throughout the theater. Keep up the hard work in your next role and continue working with vocal directors to strengthen your singing abilities and technique as your range will expand quickly within these next few years. Congrats on a great show!

**Student Name:** Nathan Grav

**Character Name:** Gomez

**[Performance] Comments:**

Nathan was so greatly cast as Gomez, I can easily see why this choice was made! Gomez really is the one character with a solid accent and Nathan maintained it with ease throughout the whole show and throughout every song. With tonation and pitch in vocals, this can get tricky when trying to maintain an accent, I just encourage Nathan to look at his posture during songs and trying to hold himself more upright to allow for a full proper breath support. Otherwise speed and volume was appropriate.

Continue to play off of your scene partners as you enter into your next show. Be aware of those onstage with you, and really define your relationship to them.

**[Performance] Comments:**

What a fun character to bring to life on stage! You made some great choices throughout the production that really helped to enhance Gomez's character and make him shine. I enjoyed seeing all of the energy that you brought to the characterization. You effectively integrated Gomez's accent into the production while still maintaining your volume and diction so that the audience could understand every line and lyric of the character. I would challenge you to continue pushing yourself to take it even further. Gomez is an over-the-top character, so you don't have to hold back! Keep working on finding ways to channel all of the Gomez's energy in every scene. You also have great natural comedic timing that helped make all of the character's jokes and witty lines land. Don't be afraid to let yourself slow down a little during your line delivery, as pacing will help to make those jokes land even more effectively. For example, when listing off the ridiculous names of the Addams family ancestors, slowing down the Spanish words just slightly will make sure that the audience catches every piece the names to make the jokes even funnier.



You have a solid vocal foundation that was a great fit for Gomez. Particularly during “Happy/Sad” you demonstrated strong vocal technique. I would encourage you to continue developing the support in your diaphragm to bring the same energy and power you have in your characterization to your vocal performance. You also did a great job of moving through the blocking and choreography. In every scene and song, you knew where you needed to be. As a next step, keep working on finding ways to add some of the Gomez flair you develop for the character to your movements and physicality. Keeping the energy up for the character in every aspect of your vocal and physical presence will enhance your performance even further, and take the character to the next level!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

I could tell that Nathan was having fun with this character and was really embodying Gomez in every moment on stage. Nathan kept up his energy onstage and had great facial expressions and body language during scenes. He also kept his accent consistent throughout the show which is a hard feat! This show is really jam packed with jokes, and he got the delivery right on many of his.

You sounded really well rehearsed during “Happy/Sad” I encourage Nathan to work on his voice with his vocal directors in order to help him gain confidence in his singing abilities and improve upon the talents he has. Congrats on a great show!

**Student Name:** Payton O'Malley

**Character Name:** Morticia

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Payton was lovely on stage as Morticia. Costuming and make up were fantastic and she played well into them. I encourage Payton in future productions to find more confidence in her performance as it was very clear that once she was able to settle into her performance and into her comfortable alto range, her talents really rang true on stage.

There was definitely some thought given into the range of emotions Morticia goes through in this show and vocally this is seen. I also ask Payton to explore her vocal dynamics that she display and take this into her movements and choreography and really give her future characters the full development I know she can give them!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

What a fun opportunity to bring an iconic character to life in this production! You did a great job of capturing Morticia’s sassiness and sophistication on stage. I would encourage you to continue working on developing additional levels to the character. This will help to add more dimension to your performance, and create a more engaging character overall. Even though Morticia is much more stoic than her husband, don’t be afraid of giving energy to the role. For example, when Morticia is suspicious that Gomez is keeping secrets from her, what are all of the emotions that Morticia may be feeling? Is she just angry at Gomez, is she hurt, is there a chance that she might be impressed that he actually was able to keep something from her? Continuing to ask these questions for every scene, and in every interaction will help you to build a stronger presence on stage as well as create more dynamic relationships between characters.



You effectively maintained your volume and diction throughout the performance. You also have a strong vocal foundation in your chest voice that stood out when you were singing. Keep working on developing your head voice to maintain that same strength. I would also encourage you to find ways to keep bringing more energy to the physicality and movements of the character. You executed the choreography and blocking correctly throughout the production. The next step to build on your performance would be to continue add characterization to those movements. For example, when dancing with Gomez, how does Morticia feel? How can this help to convey the relationship between the two characters through your movements? Keep asking questions like this in every scene in order to help find motivation for every movement and gesture that you make. Congratulations on your performance!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Payton's performance as Morticia was mysterious and spooky! Payton's voice sounded lovely as she sat with Alice and sang "Secrets", you naturally have a strong chest voice and I believe you have the potential to have an amazing middle voice in addition to it if you work more with your vocal directors. Some quick techniques to help you improve your vocal performance would be to open your mouth more and keep your eyebrows up. I thought your comedic timing was great and really strengthened your performance. Especially in scenes with Gomez, where the jokes are every other line. In the next role you find yourself in, I encourage you to dig deeper into the character themselves in order to help you as an actress decide how they would react to the situations around them. This can be difficult to do with a character like Morticia, who many think is made of stone, but whether she likes it or not, she's a living being! Strive to over exaggerate actions in order for the audience to better follow the character's motivations, it'll help jokes land and heart strings to be tugged. Do your best to commit to your character even if it feels silly or makes you want to laugh. For instance when in a scene like the one where Gomez, Mal and Alice are having drinks, hold the cup like there's actually liquid in it and pretend to drink from it. If this task ever seems too daunting, don't be afraid to ask your director for help! It's what they live for. Congrats on a great show!

**Student Name:** Reese Bauman

**Character Name:** Wednesday

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Reese appeared quite comfortable on stage. There was moderate display of character develop shown all the way throughout the show through movement and tonation. Where I ask Reese to focus future develops is getting more comfortable in her alto range and then progressing into higher ranges from here. She has a beautiful instrument. Reese did a fantastic job of showing the attitude of having control of her parents as their first child and really holding this over them to get her way.

Continue to develop and focus on your overall character arc In the show. I was really lovely moments here, but think that you have the skills to take It even further.

### **[Performance] Comments:**



What a great opportunity to embody such a fun character! This is a character that is easy to portray as flat, and monotone, but you did a great job of adding inflections to your vocalization. I would encourage you to continue working on incorporating additional elements to the character. What is Wednesday feeling in each scene? How does that affect the way she stands or talks to the other characters? Asking these types of questions will allow you to continue exploring your character, and find more depth and dimension to add to your performance. Also, as a next step, I would challenge you to consider Wednesday's relationship with each of the other characters. You did a great job of showing Wednesday's relationship with Gomez, and how she relies on her father. How can you create the same level of relationships with the other characters? This will help you to show the audience how much Wednesday really loves Lucas, or how torn she might be about keeping a secret from her mother. Continuing to explore the various levels of the character and their relationships with others will help to create a truly well-rounded performance.

You have a good vocal foundation that you displayed effectively. I would encourage you to continue working on your breath support while you sing and speak in order to get through longer phrases and lyrics without having to take a breath. You also did a good job of following the choreography and blocking. The next step to enhance your physical performance would be to find motivation for your character in each movement. As an example, rather than just walking across the stage toward Lucas during "Crazier Than You," how can you use the energy of the character to take you across the stage? How can you show how the two characters are drawn together? Considering thoughts like this can help you incorporate more of the character's energy into all of the movement and choreography. As a whole, you effectively brought Wednesday to life in this production, and I would encourage you to continue finding ways to bring more of the character's life and personality to the forefront. Congratulations on your performance!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Reese's portrayal of Wednesday Addams was subtle and decisive. This role can be very demanding as Wednesday has such a dark humor and aura about her the idea of becoming her can seem daunting but I thought Reese did a great job embracing her spookiness. Your voice really shined during One Normal Night, you seemed to be most comfortable when singing in your chest voice and that's definitely when your diction and projection was the strongest. Your energy was high during this number and I felt it was a highlight of your performance. I really enjoyed your scenes with Lucas, you had great comedic timing during those scenes. I encourage you to try different acting exercises involving facial expressions and body language during the rehearsal process to help you incorporate these things in your performance on stage. Congrats on a great show!

**Student Name:** Sydney Anderson

**Character Name:** Grandma

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Sydney as a featured role maintained her character at all points of the show. This was another character that had somewhat of an accent and Sydney did an excellent carrying this solidly throughout the show. Vocals throughout were solid and easily heard through the crowd and



audience. I appreciate that Sydney showed that if there were to be an issue with mics, she could project easily without the mic.

She brought great energy to the role. I would encourage Sydney to continue to drive her character into every element of the show, and be careful to not let it dip in moment of movement.

### **[Performance] Comments:**

You did a great job of creating a fun and engaging character in Grandma! From the very first lines you had, you brought a great deal of energy to the role. You effectively showed the audience that even though Grandma is 102, she is just as spry as any of the younger characters! The characterization elements that you brought to the role in your physicality and vocals really helped to make this character shine, and it was easy for the audience to see how much fun you had playing this role. One moment in particular that you had with the audience, was when you were exiting after "One Normal Night." You stayed in character throughout your exit, and were able to set up a comedic bit with the audience as you were the last character to leave the stage. Continuing to explore these kinds of unique character moments and elements will help you to enhance your performance even further!

You effectively incorporated the character voice from your spoken lines into your singing. Make sure that when using this character voice that you maintain your volume and diction so that the audience can hear and understand all of the character's lines and lyrics! As a whole, you effectively incorporated the character's physicality into the role. I would encourage you to continue finding ways to bring the same energy that you have developed during your scenes to the choreography during dance numbers. Don't be afraid to bring the great character that you developed into every scene and song! Overall, great work and congratulations on your performance!

### **[Performance] Comments:**

Sydney's performance as Grandma was a crowd favorite! Your comedic timing seemed to come very naturally to you throughout the show, your delivery was perfect and the audience was always eager to hear the punchline whenever you started to speak. My favorite moment like this was definitely during Full Disclosure as you shared Grandma's naughty confession, the pause you did before saying "I just peed" was perfect and the audience ate it up! Sydney clearly had no problem tackling a comedic role but I encourage her to work more on the basics of stage acting that can be difficult to become instinctual. Remember that whenever you are on stage you are in character, otherwise it can pull your audience away from being immersed in the story. If you keep this in mind during rehearsal you'll have no trouble following through with it when on stage. Congrats on a great show!



## Director Eyes Comments

### [Performance] Comments:

Congratulations on putting up the first musical for this program! It was great to see the passion and dedication of everyone involved as well as all of the community support. Congratulations again!

### [Performance] Comments:

It was so clear to see how excited your students were to be up on stage. I would love to see the confidence they showed 1/2 way through the show after settling in in the very beginning of the show! I encourage you to take advantage of the workshops Spotlight is working to get out to the greater MN schools, I feel they would be a great asset for your students.

### [Technical] Comments:

Congrats on the show! I wanted to leave a few notes for the staff team here:

A big thing we talked about tonight was microphone placement on the body in order to eliminate potential issues with the elements. I would also strongly recommend purchasing or renting a spare pack and microphone for every performance you do if possible, so that you can replace a broken mic. I suggested that every student with a microphone get a sports bra to wear, and that they put the pack of the mic in there. The sound operator should delicately wrap the cable near the pack and tuck it into the sports bra. Be sure the mic is turned on, the antenna is straight, and there are no kinks in the cable. This will get microphones out of pockets and safely secured against the students bodies. I have also seen elastic bands or medical wrap be used for this as well. Then put the microphone on, and secure using one piece of medical tape below the ear, and I suggest using a band aid on the high trapezius muscles. This allows for the cable to move as the actors turn their heads while still being held in place.

If you have actors who tend to sweat, I suggest placing the microphone pack inside of an unlubricated condom--it's odd, but it protects the pack from getting wet and having something go wrong. You can order them from audio equipment stores, or pick them up at target. They are equipment savers, and well worth it! This all will hopefully help a lot with the buzzing noise that was coming through the monitors!

Lights: I know that the lights are a recent purchase for the school! Super exciting! I think a great next step would be to get a physical light board instead of using the ADJ software. From what I can tell, there isn't an easy way to write light cues that fade into one another on a cue list using that software. Since you have LEDs that have DMX, I highly recommend a physical board with channels would be great. Anything from ETC is a great choice--I recommend the element for high schools and small theaters. It's simple, easy to use, and gives you a lot of control! You'd be able to use all the moving lights and LEDs you have to their full potential. It can be very expensive, but is definitely worth the investment if Hayfield wants to get serious about developing their theater program--which I think is doable!!

Based on conversation with the director, I know that so far rehearsals have been sort of like an informal rotating shift schedule so the students could try out all the different elements. It's super important that students are given a chance to try out different areas of tech theater, thank you



for giving student this cool opportunity. I do wonder If that could wrap up during tech week so students

You've got this! The show is going to happen no matter what and that's huge. I know it hasn't been easy, but it's going to mean a lot to the community, to the parents, to the school, the students themselves, and hopefully to you too! You were a huge part in shaping these students' first experience with a musical, and you push them to do their very best---even when their best might not be what you're used to working with other groups. Believe in them so that they can believe in themselves!

One more thing that the sound board operator should definitely do is be sure to turn microphones on as soon as an actor appears onstage, and to mute it the moment they go behind the curtain.