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Slasher musical delivers stellar performance

By Hannah Larson

ASSISTANT EDITOR

33rd Street Productions made a right turn onto Fleet Street with their latest production.

This past Friday and Saturday was the opening weekend for "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," this year's annual spring musical presented by 33rd Street Productions.

As a nod to our society's addiction to social networking, and to note the progression of my opinion and reactions in real-time with the performance, I live tweeted during the musical, using the hashtag #sweeneytodd@IIT, and racked up an impressive 51 tweets.

For those who don't know the term, live tweeting is the act of tweeting numerous

times in reference to a television show, movie, concert, et cetera. Though I know this outrageously violates theatre etiquette regarding the audience and cell phone usage during a performance, in my opinion, my use of technology helped me to collect my thoughts as well as promote IIT's technology-forward mission.

Keep in mind that this production is very different from the #TimBurton version, and not riddled with #JohnnyDepp or #Helen-aBonhamCarter's faces. When I see #sweeney-todd@IIT the first thought that pops into my head, is the big-budget Hollywood production by Tim Burton, but being an IIT production, there's an obvious gap between the two. I am a fan of Burton's interpretation of "Sweeney Todd," but seeing a live production is a completely different experience. 33rd Street Productions worked hard to bring this captivating

rendition to campus, so it isn't fair for me to try to compare the two given the vastly different contexts.

33rd Street Productions knows how to cast roles #nodoubtaboutit #sweeneytodd@IIT

Playing the dark and demented title role of Sweeney Todd, is Geoffrey Mitchell. Not to sound cliché, but it was most definitely a powerhouse performance, and according to his playbill bio, he's far from a rookie. On the other hand, Maria Pulido, as Mrs. Lovett, Todd's accomplice to his murderous rampage, admits in her playbill bio this is her first foray into acting, though you wouldn't know it by seeing the production. Mitchell and Pulido have on-stage chemistry that intensifies the façade that is live theatre.

Was the kiss believable? #idunno

#sweeneytodd@IIT

Korey Enright as Anthony Hope, and Cara Hanlet as Johanna, the young lovers entangled in this story, seem more comfortable acting alone than with each other. Enright's Anthony is a perfect counterpart to the dark character of Sweeney Todd. Enright plays Anthony with a sunny disposition that's refreshing in the creepy and macabre plotline. As for Hanlet's portrayal of an ethereal Johanna, I was taken aback at her extraordinary singing. Each time was a surprise, and surpassed the previous number.

The antagonist of this play, Judge Turpin, played by Pierrick Hanlet, Associate Research Physics Professor, excels in his performance. According to his bio, Professor Hanlet is no stranger to musical theatre, or opera singing. Professor Hanlet uses his experience

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Photos by Ryan Kamphuis