

LES MISERABLES

an overview, by Jed Rowden

Jean Valjean, played by David Hoel, released on parole after 19 years on the chain gang, finds that the Yellow Ticket of Leave that he must, by law, display condemns him to be an outcast. Only the Bishop of Digne (John Hoel) treats him kindly and Valjean, haunted by years of hardship, repays him by stealing some silver. Valjean is caught and brought back by police, and is amazed when the Bishop lies to protect him, and even gives him the candlesticks he left behind. Valjean decides to start a new life.

Eight years have passed and Valjean, having changed his name to Monsieur Madeleine, had risen to become both a factory owner and the town mayor. One of the workers, Fantine (Lou Hoyer), has an illegitimate child (Cosette). When the other workers find out, they report to the foreman (David) who immediately throws her out. Desperate for money to pay for medicines for her daughter, Fantine sells her locket, hair and teeth until she joins the ladies of the streets in selling herself. Completely degraded by her new job she gets in a fight with a potential customer and is about to get arrested by Javert (Cody Kelley) when the mayor (David) arrives and demands that she be taken to a hospital instead.

The mayor (David) then rescues a man (Robert Facey) trapped under a very heavy run away cart. Javert (Cody) is reminded of the abnormal strength of convict 24601, Jean Valjean (David), a parole breaker whom he has been tracking for years, but who, he says has just been recaptured. Then at the court Valjean sees the innocent man (James Grieves) being accused and confesses to being Valjean. On Fantine's (Lou's) death bed Valjean promises Fantine he will find her daughter. Young Cosette (Callie Adams) has been staying with the Thenardies (Keith Stark and Amanda Newby) who have been horribly abusing the child by ways of assigning her numerous and difficult chores while allowing their two little daughters Eponine and Azelma (Joli Hobbs and Brittney Gorman) to play. After paying them Valjean takes Cosette (Callie) with him to Paris, but Javert (Cody) is still on his tail.

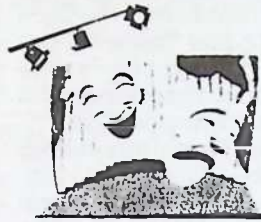
Nine years later there is a great unrest as the people are in a great uprising, feeling that their rights are being mistreated. Among the street gangs are the Thenardiers who Valjean is saved from by Javert, who doesn't recognize him until he has made his escape. The Thenardiers (Keith and Amanda's) daughter Eponine (Jessica Dunlap) loves the protesting student who is also their neighbor, Marius (Dan Stark), reluctantly agrees to help him find Cosette (Stacy Smith), who he has fallen in love with. Cosette is in love with Marius and Valjean thinks that she is getting older quickly, but he still doesn't want to tell her of her past. Eponine (Jessica) stops the mob from robbing Valjean's house, who is sure that Javert is lurking closely and prepares to leave the country. Later Valjean (David) reaches a barricade in search of Marius (Dan) and has a chance to kill Javert (Cody) but lets him go. After Marius is injured Valjean takes him to a hospital and sees Javert on the way. Javert lets him go again, then kills himself. Marius wakes up to the loving care of Cosette (Stacy Smith). Valjean then informs them of the truth of Cosette's past.

That was the amazing play put on by our drama production this year headed up by Marcia Warren. It was an incredible production.

LES MISERABLES

OVERVIEWS, FOOTNOTES, REFLECTIONS. CAST & STAGE NOTES . . .

FOOTNOTES & REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR . . . Marcia Warren



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the production of Les Miserables. The students, staff and community made this play possible, and I really appreciate all of the time that each person contributed. The enthusiasm

for the play has been remarkable.

To the students involved in Les Miserables, I am touched by the number of students who wanted to be involved in the play and that have worked so hard to make it happen. Hours of memorization, practices, painting, building, trying on costumes, singing and pulling together during TENSE moments made this a worthwhile experience. We have a wonderful group of students in our district and I am extremely proud of all of you. Thank you for your commitment to this year's production of Les Miserables by Victor Hugo.

A note of appreciation and amazement for Sherry Ellis. Sherry has been sewing for about three weeks with students dropping by on a minutes notice - pants being turned into knickers, lycra turned into socks, both of Cosette's dresses, nun outfits, and everything else that is seen on stage. Thank you very much, Sherry.

Every year, Sue Anne Torres, Nelliann Ragsdale and Michael Harrington make the production of the high school play successful and possible. Due to the fact they are behind the stage, they don't always receive the recognition deserved and I wanted everyone to know that our plays would not be possible without their commitment to the drama program. Thank you very much!

Thank you Wendy Earl and Cyndi Harrington for keeping the director functioning during the week of the play.

The story of Les Miserables, by Victor Hugo, is almost 1125 pages long. Condensing this story into a play (please read the brief overview provided by Jed Rowden) was not an easy task and therefore, this year's production was a little more lengthy than usual. The first half of the play was around one and one-half hours and the second half was about forty minutes. There was also a fifteen minute intermission for refreshments. The second half of the play was filled with excitement, beautiful music and special effects during the war scenes. We hope that everyone enjoyed our version of Les Miserables. The students have worked very hard to make this production a success.

Thank you to everyone who attended.

CAST AND STAGE NOTES!

In addition to the students referred to in the overview (Callie Adams, Jessica Dunlap, Robert Facey, Brittney Gorman, Joli Hobbs, David Hoel, John Hoel, Lou Hoyer, Cody Kelley, Amanda Newby, Stacy Smith, Dan Stark, and Keith Stark, there were many other students who performed in the play, including Anna Andersson, Refina Azwan, Tony Beals, Bonnie Biando, Kenn Biando, Tyler Campbell, Melody Carlisle, Kale Freeman, Melissa Gilbert, Greg Gorham, James Grieve, Todd Hackworth, Darren Hampton, Kelly Harrington, Trevor Hersom, Britani Johnston, Shelley Marquard, Sarah Matthews, Jerri McClanahan, Caleb Moore, Bijan Nouri, Barry Parker, Vallorie Petersen, Jed Rowden, Breanna Schultz, Brandy Sewell, Trae Stephenson, Charlotte von Krause, Hope VanLandingham, Jacob Wetzel and LuCynda Zartman (41 high school students and 3 kindergartners)!

Joshua Wetzel was the Technical Director and member of the light crew; Brianna Smeltz and Michael Hanson were in charge of the sound; Victoria Lawrence assisted with the lights; Kathi St. George, Alec Smith and Julie Hayes made certain that the Fog rolled in on time; Kari St. George was in charge of the curtains while Jacob Shepherd, Billy Knapp, Sarah Matthews and Todd Hackworth performed the tasks of the Stage crew. Between the performers and all of the

students who assisted behind the scenes, it is easy to see that the vast majority of our students were involved in this production.

In addition to students, many adults also lent their time and energy to this incredible production. SueAnne Torres and Nelliann Ragsdale were the Art & Stage Directors; Sherry Ellis, assisted by Wendy Earl and Cyndi Harrington, coordinated and created all the costumes; Stage Assistants Desi Grisham and Sherry Grisham assisted with the props and backstage chores; Cathy Carlisle helped out with the lighting; Wendy Earl provided all the refreshments; Marian Street and Wendy Earl handled all the promotion of the play; Cyndi Harrington acted as Prompter and Organizer; Jade Torres and Sue Anne Torres handled the Make-up and assisted with Coaching; Arnold Grisham created the delightful lampposts; Pastor John Adams assisted with the Sound Effects and Music; Candy Adams oversaw the children's rehearsals; Mardell Smith ran errands and provided needed nourishment to the cast and crew; and Jeany Moore and Teresa Vaughn handled the ticket sales. Mr. Harrington's shop students help build the props and sets and Ms. Torres' Spanish and Art students assisted in the painting, building, and creating the scenery that helped to make the production special.

DEAR DRAMA DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS,

After attending *Les Miserables* on Friday evening, we must express the pleasure we enjoyed in watching such a fine performance. Everyone on stage and behind the scenes did their very best. So many students displayed a wonderful talent for acting and singing. You can all be proud of a job well done! Intermission refreshments were an added delight.

As outsiders not knowing any of the students personally, our view was unbiased. We hope everyone in Butte Falls knows what a great town full of friendly people this is. We've really enjoyed our two months here.

- Judy and Bob, Volunteer Hosts at Butte Falls Hatchery