

Cast, Crew, and Orchestra---

I wanted to take a moment to let you all know how proud I was of you last night. What an amazing opening night to an incredible production! As usual, I always have people ask me after a show “what I thought.” I thought last night was wonderful—with room for growth. That is truly the best place you can be. Please do not underestimate what you have accomplished. Words cannot fully express how impressive it is to see 125+ young people work together in a cohesive way to tell a tale as old as time...

Because it is live theatre, surprises are always going to happen. I ask that you not dwell on those instances, and continue stay in the moment and tell your story. As always, there’s going to be novice audience goers who will have less than positive things to say as well. That is the case for every piece of art that is made. PLEASE do not let one “negative Nancy” get in the way of the extraordinary work you have created. You have already affected hundreds of people—and you will affect hundreds more before this weekend is over.

Lastly, do not worry about trying to get “accolades” or “being the best.” We are first, and foremost—a school. We are here **to learn and grow**. I want you to find the joy in the process and not dwell on perfect the “product.” Greatness is achieved in many ways—and one of those ways is embracing the process of “learning,” and never giving up on the chance to grow in your work. I have been teaching for over 15 years, and I am still finding ways to learn and grow as an educator. I will continue to do so for as long as I live.

All this being said, I had so many audience goers come up to me last night in tears over how moving and powerful your performance was. You have something truly special happening at Green Hope—and tonight will be even better! Yes, there will be surprises, but be open, adaptable, and continue to find ways to grow!

In the spirit of learning and growing, ask yourself: **“What is one thing you will do better tonight?”** If you can do just one thing better, you will be making a difference.

Never underestimate the impact you make on the world as young artists. The magic is truly there—and it will be there tonight, and the rest of the weekend. Please enjoy this experience and enjoy each other. Find time to compliment someone on what they are doing—it could make all the difference. Again, I am beyond proud of you all, and once again, tonight will truly be something special to see.

Rest. Rejuvenate. Refocus. Sing with all your heart when the time comes. Bring the technical aspects to life with extraordinary clarity. Play your instrument with immense feeling and purpose.

The show is truly yours.

With Great Respect,

Mr. Gorski