

Imagine the most famous musician in the country coming to your hometown specifically with the purpose to bestow a kiss upon you. Now imagine your family's reaction to him living in your house. If you think that your parents would flip, then you've probably just imagined the plot of "Bye Bye Birdie". When Conrad Birdie (Kelston Thomas), an "Elvis"-esque singer, journeys to Sweet Apple, Ohio along with his mamma's boy manager Albert (Andrew Keegan), all heck breaks loose among the townspeople.

The Severna Park production of Bye Bye Birdie provided the audience with a wonderfully peppy and energetic performance supplemented only by its fabulously intricate costumes and set design. The main set of the MacAfee's household was not only extremely visually pleasing, but also showed great technical skill behind its creation. Every single costume piece placed on that stage, right down to the actors' shoes and socks were completely in the time period. These only helped complement the extreme detail put into the props' creation. There was a "Conrad Birdie" face on just about every surface possible, and it all looked fantastic.

The actors, though overall very skilled, showed their greatest talents in their voices. Kim MacAfee (Jenny Judd) had a very prominent stage presence that was only amplified when her piercingly beautiful voice echoed through the theater. Specifically her harmony during the song "One Boy" was absolutely on pitch, along with her two companions. Andrew Keegan's versatile range was quite splendiferous throughout all his solos, and only helped to round out the greatly neurotic character he had managed to create in Albert Peterson. Yasmine Randall, as Albert's feisty girlfriend/secretary Rose Alvarez, provided a clean, crisp voice, while never losing a bit of character even when dancing both on top of and beneath tables. The highlight of the ensemble came in the form of Wilton Howard (Policeman). Though the size of his role was not substantial, he took over the stage during all his scenes. This complete combination of talents all meshed together to form a very entertaining show.

In Bye Bye Birdie, Severna Park tackled a show that relies heavily on both its ensemble and its numerous leads. However, their large pool of talent helped carry the show onto a very successful production, as well as an experience of great entertainment.

by Max Spitz of Beth Tfiloh

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There's nothing the matter with kids these days as proven by Severna Park High School's current production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

Originally choreographed by the world renowned Gower Champion, "Birdie" opened on Broadway in April, 1960 and ran for 268 performances. With music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Lee Adams, Michael Stewart's story is a parody based on Elvis Presley's final farewell before being drafted into the army.

The year is 1958 and Conrad Birdie, a famous rock star, is about to be inducted into military service. His agent, Albert Peterson, along with long-time girlfriend Rose Alvarez, dreams up a publicity stunt to have Birdie bestow a "final kiss" upon one of his hysterical teenage groupies in the small, quiet, mid-west town of Sweet Apple, Ohio.

Merriment ensues as the chosen one, Kim MacAfee, contends with parental displeasure and her boyfriend's jealousy over the potential kiss.

In addition to an amazing energy level on the part of both principles and ensemble, Severna Park's production includes a number of innovations. Screens at both sides of the stage are used to give verisimilitude to the televising of the kiss on the Ed Sullivan show. Dancers grace the aisles several times and even encourage members of the audience to join in the fun by dancing with them.

This show demands strong principles and Severna Park delivers. Andrew Keegan sets an immediate comedic air in his portrayal of the good-hearted, but often clueless mama's boy, Albert Peterson. Rosie, his girlfriend and foil, is masterfully performed by Yasmine Randall, who absolutely sizzles in her various dance numbers. Jenny Judd as Kim MacAfee is very affecting as the sweet, young, confused ingénue who adores Birdie but loves her steady, Hugo. The object of Kim's adoration, Conrad Birdie, is perfectly captured by Kelston Thomas with his forceful crooning and swinging hips.

The musical numbers with their upbeat rock and roll cadences are energetically carried by a large, supporting ensemble. Specialized groups such as the bar quartet, the Shriners, and the swooning teenage fans all contribute to show's special dynamic. Of particular note is Kolby Conrad, the constantly fainting and screaming Ursula, whose presence on stage is a cause for instant laughter.

Despite some longer than anticipated scene changes, the sets complement the action and are built to engage audience interest. Kim's bedroom, atop a long staircase, juxtaposes the living quarters below. The costumes, like the settings, are exquisitely detailed reflecting the time period. Poodle skirts, sweaters, and bobby sox combine to give a real 50's air.

So if you've "got a lot of livin' to do", get right down to Severna Park High School and enjoy "Bye Bye Birdie."

by Amy Schaffman of Glenelg Country

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Shrilling screams from teenage girls, poodle skirts, leather jackets, and the Elvis hip swing; were all essential aspects of Severna Park High School's production of "Bye Bye Birdie" last night.

In "Bye Bye Birdie" when superstar Conrad Birdie (Kelston Thomas) is drafted the only

thing left for him to do is save his last kiss for one lucky fan—Kim MacAfee (Jenny Judd). His manager Albert Peterson (Andrew Keegan) is torn between supporting Conrad or focusing on his relationship Rose Alvarez (Yasmine Randall). When all three arrive in Sweet Apple Ohio, they run into more than they all bargained for.

Stepping into the theatre was like stepping right into a Conrad Birdie crazed town. With posters of none other than Birdie, and a cast full of people who were dressed to their toes in period clothing, no aspect of what it would be like to live in '58 was lost.

The moment Andrew Keegan walked on stage as Albert Peterson he made himself known. From his strong first line, to his powerful singing; he made it hard for anyone to walk out of the theatre and not mention him first. Yasmine Randall made you want to love Rose. She made you root for Rose and Albert's relationship. Yasmine added a nice surprise to the show by doing the Shriners dance, which is usually cut from high school productions.

When Jenny Judd (Kim MacAfee) steps on stage you would never think that a strong and powerful voice would come out of her little body, but that was never the case. As soon as she began singing 'How Lovely To Be A Woman' the whole theatre was sitting in astonishment. She filled the auditorium with a beautiful and powerful sound that not many high school actors can do. As an ensemble the entire cast balanced each other out. Where there were a few students who lost energy in a number or broke character, there were five others who clearly made up for it.

The crew did a wonderful job with paying attention to detail. Not one cast member was thrown into something that didn't look like it came out of a clothing store in the 50's. The set changes were a little too long, but once the set was presented to the audience the length did not matter.

Walking out of Bye Bye Birdie was like walking into a whole other world. Without the students wearing poodle skirts, hip swinging, and singing 50's music, it's just another day in 21st century Maryland.

by Emily Wendler of Patapsco High School

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Come and rock the night away with Severna Park and their rendition of "Bye Bye Birdie".

When Conrad Birdie gets drafted into the Army problems arise. Albert Peterson, Conrad's

Manager, does not know what to do. Then Rose, his assistant and love, comes up with a last effort to get money so when Conrad leaves, Albert and her can get married and he can go back to school for the steady job of an English teacher. Conrad will have one last hit song and a 'last kiss' with a member of his fan club selected at random, Kim MacAfee. The longer Conrad stays in the town of Sweet Apple the more chaotic it becomes, slowly turning the little town upside down.

The show was very good. The cast was lively, the set detailed, and the costumes authentic.

Albert Peterson (Andrew Keegan) blended the mix of funny and dorky with cockiness from being 'emperor of the music world' to convey the intense complexity of his character. Rose Alvarez (Yasmine Randall) played the sassy Latina in 'Spanish Rose' making for a very memorable performance. Conrad Birdie (Kelston Thomas) did not have many times to portray his character verbally making it crucial to do so through song and actions, something he did extremely well.

The Conrad Birdie Fan Club and Parents really brought the show together. The constant mayhem and confusion of the town was shown well, always keeping the energy buzzing.

The costumes were accurate to the times, even down to the shoes. The orchestra while pitchy at times kept up their energy. Tech did a good job with all the elaborate scene changes in the short time they had. The sets were wonderfully constructed and added a lot to the show.

Severna Park's "Bye Bye Birdie" will remind just how much livin' you have to do.

by Nia Adee of Annapolis

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Excitement surrounding Conrad Birdie in Sweet Apple consumes the small town and all of its residents. The MacAfee Family is most hilariously shaken by this star's appearance in small-town America to bid farewell to the States on his way to war. Severna Park HS's production paid great tribute to the infamous "Bye Bye Birdie".

The original 1960 Broadway hit has been revived on Broadway and again at Severna Park; in honor of the High School's 50th Anniversary, we are privileged to enjoy this classic musical. The satirical storyline pokes fun at Elvis and the culture of the late 50s where Conrad Birdie is sent off to war, similar to Elvis in '58, and as a publicity boost, the crafty Albert Peterson and his lovely secretary find him "One Last Kiss" in Sweet Apple,

Ohio.

The satirical comedy is well played in SPHS's production from the delightful use of props and costume to all the playfully mocking lines and plots. It is apparent that much work was put into making the show pleasing and a lighthearted laugh—which it effectively embodied.

Albert Peterson, the English Teacher at heart managing Conrad Birdie, played by Andrew Keegan, sings and dances his way to independence with help from his ladylove Rose Alvarez. Rose, you may recognize her as Yasmine Randall, dynamically struggles to find the life she wants, fighting for her place in Albert's world.

In Birdie's last big stunt, the childlike Hugo Peabody, portrayed by hilarious, quirky Nick Pace, finds himself as collateral damage by losing his new steady, Kim, which results in failed attempts to drink himself to death. Even Ursula Merkle loses her voice screaming her heart out for Birdie, the commitment the characters have to Birdie is mirrored by the obvious commitment of every player on stage.

Bright costumes infected the stage and charmed the audience, unique color and splashes of humor among Sweet Apple's parents' bathrobes and choice of weaponry show the time put into this year's musical to make it comical and relevant to the audience. Although anchored by missed queues and questionable placements, the lighting design did showcase some interesting color choices in final scenes.

Severna Park High School's production of "Bye Bye Birdie" delighted me and certainly tickled my funny bone because of the colorful spirit that appeared to inhabit those involved.

by Payton Brown of Annapolis

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Shining through the darkness is a single spotlight. This spotlight demands the audience to focus on three teenage girls who harmonize the lyrics "We love you Conrad". As these words resound, they give a sense of nostalgia. Celebrating the 50 years of being active Severna Park H.S. performs the classic musical, "Bye Bye Birdie".

The creation that we know today as "Bye Bye Birdie" was created in 1958 by Edward Padula. This tale is loosely based on a segment of Elvis Presley, the king of rock and roll's life. He was portrayed under the name Conrad Birdie whom was drafted into the military and decided to receive a first "last kiss" by Kim MacAfee, one of his top fans.

Many struggles occurred in these few days. For example, Conrad's manager Albert Peterson was in love with his secretary, Rose Alvarez but his mother disapproves of his decision. The original cast was the most successful which starred Dick van Dyke. This cast pulled in multiple Tony awards. This play became a film and a television production.

Overall this production was put together well. The cast was well put together and executed well. You noticed a lot of different aspects of the play but the comedy was really appreciated in this play. The leads, ensembles, and the remainder of the cast were exceptionally well.

This show couldn't have been done if there weren't any leads in the play. Rose Alvarez (Yasmine Randall) and Albert Peterson (Andrew Keegan) were just the people to call upon for completing this task. Their chemistry was wonderful, made you think that they were really living in the fifties. They both express their talents of dancing and singing in greatly, Albert's tap dancing while singing "Put on a Happy Face" and, Rose's seductive dancing. When they sing to each other it's like a serenade for the world to hear. Happily they were able to be together in the end, surpassing all the obstacles put in their ways. Even though the romance wasn't shown as expected, you could still visualize what would happen after their lives in Sweet Apple.

The supporting actors and actresses also gave a good impression of the 1950's. Conrad Birdie (Kelston Thomas) was the "I don't say much but leave an impact on anyone actor". Even though he didn't have the most amount of lines, he delivered the ones he had and, not to mention that he had people to speak for him (he was a celebrity). His musical numbers were nice and there was always a movement coming from his arms. Conrad kept his energy in this play. Kim MacAfee played by Jenny Judd was the lucky girl to participate in the "last kiss". She expressed her maturity levels and was able to transition from the "older Kim" and the "younger Kim". Also, she had a strong voice.

Many people say the featured stars need more time onstage with more lines, sounds like a lead right? For example, Hugo Peabody, played by Nick Pace could be one of those people. A great comedic spirit, and a misunderstanding of maturity, was Kim MacAfee's boyfriend, whom he figured he was for. One of his memorable quotes was, "I'm the opposite of jealous, I'm over jealous". Gloria Rasputin (Leah Channes) was another memorable character. From her gum popping and short skirt, to her untrained tap dancing, she kept the audience laughing in the small frame of time provided to her. These featured actors showed in and showed off!

The ensembles also created a vibe of good talent. The teen chorus can be compared to the students in "High School Musical" with their timing. They were all in sync too. Although there were some parts that weren't in sync, the energy boosted and they got right back on track. The Shriners also can be remembered. The scene when they were dancing with Rose created captivity. Whatever her command was they obeyed. She even had them shaking their rear ends. This is only a couple of great ensembles.

As far as tech, the aspect was very adequate for a high school play. Not too much but just right, the lighting was a good job indeed. The sound effects were good too. There were some missing cues but barely recognizable, the tech crew stayed on top of their job.

This play sets back many memories to the personal alumni of Severna Park high school and seems as though they were good ones at that. Well the fat lady has sung and when the curtains close at Severna Park H.S. you'll wish they'd open!

by Solomon Hilton of Baltimore Talent Development HS

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Last night I was able to watch a captivating performance put on by Severna Park High School. For sentimental reasons, this year's show was chosen to be "Bye Bye Birdie." SPHS had done the play several times over the past 50 years and as a tribute, they chose to perform something that was not only entertaining, but meaningful to the cast and students.

The musical "Bye Bye Birdie" was originally written by Michael Stewart and directed by Brian Kennedy. It ran for 607 performances and even in London at Her Majesty's Theatre. It also won 4 Tony awards for musical, director, choreography and supporting or featured actor and the Outer Critics Circle award for a musical. It spawned a sequel, a 1963 film and a 1995 television production. It tells the story of a rock and roll singer who is about to be inducted into the army. The singer, Conrad Birdie, an Elvis Presley type, has a pompadour and thick sideburns; he wears gaudy gold costumes and speaks in a rugged voice. Albert Peterson, his agent, is a very pleasant mild mannered young man. Albert's faithful secretary Rose Alvarez keeps him and Birdie moving forward in the world. Rosie concocts one final national publicity plan before Conrad's induction. Conrad will bid a typical American teen-age girl goodbye with an all-American kiss. Kim MacAfee in Sweet Apple, Ohio wins the honor. But the moment Conrad steps onto the scene, jealousy and corruption occur in a whacky twist of course.

The stunning performance displayed by Yasmine Randall and Andrew Keegan as Rose Alvarez and Albert Peterson was amazing. Their stage presence was made aware as soon as the play began. They did not talk over each other and said their lines right after one another efficiently and in sequence. Emotions were vividly shown throughout the musical, especially when Albert mentioned marriage. The chemistry of these two actors could not have been scripted any better.

The props and effects were extremely intricate and well thought out. The most creative part was when the CBS camera was being projected onto the sides of the auditorium. It was a live performance right before our eyes.

Overall, "Bye Bye Birdie" was a great musical that was performed by a great cast. Seeing a high school perform it so well would leave many inquiries to how great the Broadway performance might have been...

by Tyree Pounds of Baltimore Talent Development HS

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One of the most gripping shows of our time, "Bye Bye Birdie" recounts the story of a rock and roll star named Conrad Birdie who is about to be drafted into the army. Conrad bids farewell with a kiss to Kim MacAfee who is picked at random from the girls in his fan club. Jealousy and anger arises when Kim's "steady" finds out about her kiss with Conrad and crisis arises.

Severna Park took on this compelling musical, and created something great. Their costumes matched the period from head to toe. Their idea about using a real camera during the Ed Sullivan show was inventive and added a lot to the scene. Their set was interesting and fitting to the time; only to be matched by the players who were in it.

Kim MacAfee, played by Jenny Judd, sang her ballads with great delivery and feeling. The harmonies with Judd, Elizabeth Embser, Colleen Flannery, and Yasmine Randall in the song "One Boy" were impeccable and perfectly executed. Yasmine Randall, who played Rose, demonstrated that she could display both the character's timid and unrestricted sides.

The ensemble worked well with one another on the stage. Their choreography was well timed, and their reactions were well timed. This was especially evident in the scenes with the fan club girls screaming at the mere mention of the name "Conrad Birdie".

The Tech had some trouble with lighting cues, however it was infrequent and made up for in their sound. Every actor could be heard, and when the girls were screaming, their mikes were lowered. For the most part, their set changes were well timed and hidden from the audiences view.

Overall this show was well put together and well cast. There was a lot of talent on and off the stage. Severna Park had successfully performed the show and demonstrated a lot of aptitude in the students of the school. Their performance was great for a high school production.

by Ethan Levin of Beth Tfiloh

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Too many times has a high school taken on a production too big to handle. This was not the case for Severna Park's production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

"Bye Bye Birdie" tells the story of Albert Peterson dealing with the news that his Elvis like rock star, Conrad Birdie is being drafted into the army. He and his secretary Rose Alvarez come up with the scheme to have the star kiss teenager Kim MacAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio as one last publicity stunt.

Overall the production offered a plethora of things to enjoy. From the vocals to the stage craft, the musical flaunted quite a few special tricks. One of these things was the singing. From Jenny Judd's crisp harmonies in "One Boy" and Kelston Thomas' theatre shaking songs to Andrew Keegan's lush voice the bar was clearly set quite high for the vocals.

With all great vocals, one can expect great acting. Not once during the show did a featured actor or actress break character. Whether it was fez wearing Wilton Howards with his crazy cane, or Henry Pazaryna as Harvey Johnson, it truly felt professional.

To continue showering Severna Park with praises, one must mention the stellar ensemble. The energy they brought to the stage brought out the best of the play. Some of the most memorable scenes in the play were driven by the incredible force of the ensemble.

On the other end of the stage was the tech crew and orchestra. The orchestra consisted of horns, drums, violins and countless other great instruments. The music was spotty at times, although the pit did a fantastic job fixing any problems they had. The tech crew really took lengthy minutes to change the scenery. It seemed that much time passed between scenes, but when those curtains opened, it was true eye candy to see the bright and fantastic scenery. Whether it was the MacAfee house with the working staircase or the intricate TV studio, it all made up for the slow changes.

Overall, Severna Park High School offered a truly enjoyable and well thought out performance. Kudos to all involved.

by Josh Margolis of Beth Tfiloh

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Bye Bye Birdie! follows the life of music executive Albert Peterson, his secretary Rose

"Rosie" Alvarez, and their biggest hit, Rock and Roll star Conrad Birdie as he leaves to go to the army. Before Conrad ships out, Conrad is going to kiss one lucky fan on the Ed Sullivan Show as his last hurrah. That lucky fan is Kim MacAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio, who gladly accepts the responsibility of the kiss, much to her boyfriend, Hugo's, chagrin. Do Kim and Hugo survive the pressure of the kiss? Does Conrad get shipped out? Will Albert ever confess his love to his secretary? All these questions and more are answered in Severna Park's performance of Bye Bye Birdie!

The technical side of Severna Park's performance was wonderful. The majestic sets provided a wonderful stage for the actors to act upon, from bi-leveled town houses to full train platforms and everything in between. The microphone/sound system came through clearly, with a few minor quirks, leaving the audience with an overall sense of being able to hear the cast. The special effects involved in Bye Bye Birdie! were very intricate. The orchestra of Bye Bye Birdie! was faced with the challenge of replicating the great compositions of Charles Strouse, and they certainly rose to the occasion. They provided the audience with beautifully crafted music which filled their hearts and ears with moments that would last for their entire lifetimes.

The ensemble was lead fearlessly by a man who said very little, and yet said so much. Mr. Wilton Howard provided the audience with amusement and entertainment anytime the ensemble was present on stage. His performance left the audience with moments of sheer bliss, and then some. When Mr. Howard walked on stage, he immediately drew the focus. Tommy Minter as Mr. Henry MacAfee provided the audience with comic relief, gracing them with his wonderful rendition of "Kids". His deadpan humor and blatant disregard for the feelings of his children left the audience in stitches! The other comedian of the group was Kolby Conrad, as Ursula Merkle, and although faced with slight laryngitis, she was still able to give her best "Conrad Scream" which left the audience rolling in the aisles. Jenny Judd, as Kim MacAfee, portrayed her part of the brave yet innocent teenager extremely well. Her voice was outstanding, and allowed for some impressive harmonies with the other teens. The Leads of this performance, Andrew Keegan, as Albert Peterson, and Yasmine Randall, as Rose Alvarez, were a beautiful couple. The chemistry between them was stunning, and their voices rang together as perfect complements. Mr. Keegan's tap dancing abilities were greatly portrayed in "Put on a Happy Face" and Ms. Randall's flirtatious side was revealed in "The Shriner's Ballet". Overall Severna Park's performance of Bye Bye Birdie! was a great success that left the audience very pleased after the final curtain!

by Noah Ferentz of Beth Tfiloh

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Severna Park High School's performance of "Bye Bye Birdie" was entertaining. It showed talent and stage presence. Watching the cast say "bye-bye" to Birdie was really a joy to watch.

The show first appeared on Broadway in 1960, and continued to show at the Martin Beck Theatre 607 times. The production is set in 1958 and based on Elvis Presley's draft into the army that year. Conrad Birdie, the 'Elvis'; character, travels to Sweet Apple, Ohio to give one last kiss to one lucky fan, Kim MacAfee, before he is drafted into the army.

As a sub-plot, Rose Alvarez continues her 8-year relationship with her boss, Albert Peterson.

The costumes in "Bye Bye Birdie" were perfect for the time period, from the ponytail and slicked-back hair-dos, to the white socks with white Keds. There was only one long set change because of an intricate set, but all the rest were quick and covered well. There were parts of the show that had dry humor, which was acted out nicely and made the audience laugh.

Rose Alvarez, played by Yasmine Randall, had a great voice and was a wonderful dancer. She acted especially well as the 'Spanish Rose' in Scene 5, Act Two. The entire scene was done very well and very much like the musical. Rose and Albert Peterson, played by Andrew Keegan, acted very well together. Their characters had chemistry and were precise. One of their best songs was 'Rosie.' As the last scene and song of the show, it was a great way to end it. Rose's wish in the beginning had come true at the end of the musical, when Albert proposed to her and they were headed to Pumpkin Falls, Iowa for him to be an English teacher, his original goal in life.

Ursula Merkle, played by Kolby Conrad, was entertaining and funny. She was losing her voice, but she pulled it off and it fit her character very well. Hugo Peabody, played by Nick Pace, was always in character and had a high energy level every time he was on stage. The ensemble that had great stage presence, and that stuck to the Broadway version, were the Shriners. They had great energy and really acted their part well.

The stage crew worked fast and covered the scene changes very well. The set was intricate, well-painted, and looked good for the '50's. There was only one long set change, but the rest were quick and looked great. The lights were okay, but in a few scenes, there were many different cues. In entirety, the Tech element of the show was done at an average level for a high school show.

Severna Park Stage Company did a wonderful job performing "Bye Bye Birdie."The show looked very well put together and it looked as though the cast and crew had worked very hard to make the show look great.

by Rebecca Hefter of Beth Tfiloh

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Boys drunk on milk, superstars who can't speak for themselves, parents attempting to kill with a peashooter and a mop, hey, at least your town isn't that crazy! "Bye Bye Birdie", performed by Severna Park High School, originally ran on Broadway through 1960-61 with 607 performances; it won several Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

"Bye Bye Birdie" focuses on music sensation Conrad Birdie's draft into the army. Before he is sent off, his producer Albert Peterson, cooks up a scheme - Birdie will kiss one lucky fan on live television after performing his soon-to-be hit "One Last Kiss" before leaving. Albert loves his secretary, Rose Alvarez, but is too terrified of his mother's disapproval to marry her. The confusion and tension mounts, and spills during live television; Kim's jealous boyfriend Hugo punches Birdie in the face and Rose leaves Albert. It is difficult for everyone to find their peace, but Albert eventually defies his mother and marries Rose.

The large cast admirably trekked through the performance with enthusiasm and a talent for the extravagant, which abounded in the show.

Yasmine Randall and Andrew Keegan, portraying Rose Alvarez and Albert Peterson respectively, both did an impressive job. Enormous focus and understanding of their characters was apparent; they looked at each other with disgust and love when appropriate. They were also willing to take risks with their performance. Randall's fluid performance in front of the Shriners demonstrated her ability to perform; Keegan's singing skill shined through in "Put on a Happy Face".

Jenny Judd (Kim MacAfee) and Kelston Thomas (Conrad Birdie) proved to be nice additions to the show; Judd understood Kim as a teenager wanting to be an adult and Thomas knew that Birdie really just wanted to enjoy himself. The Shriners was an impressive, daring ensemble; they had plenty of courage and faith in the performance, and it showed. They jumped up onto the table, shook their bottoms at the audience, and chased Rose Alvarez around.

Both the set and the costumes nicely highlighted the era of the show. The set had a lot of thought put into it; the MacAfee's home felt homely, and small additions to Kim's room made it feel like a teenager's room. Costumes were detailed and relevant. The lighting added to the mood and was very appropriate. However, set changes seemed somewhat long, and miscommunications led to unfortunate situations, such as a stage crew member caught in a scene.

Although the large cast naturally ran into problems, the overall performance wrapped nicely and was well-received by audiences.

by Emily Walsh of Glenelg Country

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You ask what's the tale, nightingale? Well Daddy-O, Conrad Birdie is going to kiss that doll Kim MacAfee on the Ed Sullivan Show before joining the army! But don't let it rattle your cage that you didn't get to kiss that hunk because Severna Park High School put on

happy faces and rocked to the 50's groove with their production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

With its Broadway debut in 1960, "Bye Bye Birdie" captures the pains of pubescent American girls when their beloved Rock n' Roll sweetheart Conrad Birdie gets drafted into the army. In a last attempt to utilize Birdie's fame, Albert Peterson, Birdie's manager, devises a plan for Birdie to kiss a member of his fan club goodbye on national television. Birdie, Peterson, and Albert's secretary Rose Alvarez travel to Sweet Apple, Ohio, where Birdie will plant a wet one on the lucky winner Kim MacAfee. With the ruckus of Rock n' Roll, tested relationships, and skeptical parents, the residents of Sweet Apple prove to America that there is "a lot of livin' to do."

Severna Park crammed the stage with an ensemble of hormone driven teens, creating a strong basis of enthusiasm for large numbers such as "The Telephone Hour" and "A Lotta of Livin' To Do." The male ensemble of Shriners was especially exuberant, shaking rumpuses with Rose Alvarez in the Private Dining Room at Maude's.

While teenage romances brewed in Sweet Apple, the tumultuous relationship between Albert Peterson (Andrew Keegan) and his Rose Alvarez (Yasmine Randall) stirred with the most authenticity. Keegan capably carried his character's frustrations in his gentle nods and erupting sighs to the pitfalls Albert encountered. Keegan also conveyed Albert's suave nature by successfully tapping joy into the number "Put on a Happy Face." Contrasting with Keegan's lugubrious lows, Yasmine Randall burst onto the stage with punches and pops, confidence and sensual dancing. Her sultry voice blended beautifully with her delightfully devilish nature. Keegan and Yasmine balanced their opposing attitudes with a deep love that manifested the sweet sincerity of their relationship, especially in "Rosie."

Providing the energetic teenage angle of the show, Jenny Judd and Kelson Thomas infused the show with genuine understanding of the teenage life as Kim MacAfee and Conrad Birdie respectively. Judd simmered with sweetness and confidence as she hypnotized the audience with her pure voice. After her trance, Thomas would bullet in with vocal energy, blending tones of giants such as Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.

As the cast lit up with their colorful characters, the costumes organized by Olivia Zebron matched the period and characters with brilliance. Birdie's shimmering gold jacked and silky leopard pajamas fit his sinful Rock n' Roll swagger.

With Spanish Roses, teenage gossip, and jivin' 50's jams, Severna Park jazzed with energy in their production of Bye Bye Birdie.

by Erica Murphy of Glenelg Country

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Imagine a concert of a teen icon today. Add some poodle skirts, leather jackets, stick it in 1958 and (cue the screaming girls!) you have Bye Bye Birdie! Severna Park High School 'put on a happy face' and created a rousing rendition of the popular story of relationships, heartbreak, and growing up, set in a tiny town in Ohio.

The show opens with music producer Albert Peterson in deep distress, as his main act, idol Conrad Birdie (loosely based on Elvis Presley), has just been drafted into the army. Albert's girlfriend and secretary, Rose Alvarez, devises a plan to make a dent in Albert's problems- Conrad will pick a lucky girl from his fan club to bestow a kiss on before he leaves for the army, creating the biggest media sensation of Albert's career. The chosen one is fifteen year old Kim MacAfee from Sweet Apple, Ohio, and Albert, Rose, and Conrad journey to the tiny Midwestern town and discover the hysteria Conrad's arrival has created. The hit musical spawned eight revivals and two films, and has won four Tony Awards during its reign.

As Latina beauty Rose Alvarez, Yasmine Randall portrayed a character who, while smooth and at times suggestive (as in the hilarious Shiner's Ballet), allowed her vulnerability to show in her irritation at Albert's refusal to settle down. Her dance moves were particularly fluid and demonstrated excellent musicality. Andrew Keegan as Albert Peterson conveyed a torn and frustrated persona, unsure of his loyalties to his mother Mae (Julia McGinn) and girlfriend Rose. Keegan and Randall were a definite team and chemistry between them was evident in their shared scenes, showing characters who have 'a whole lotta livin' to do.'

Kelston Thomas played the hip-gyrating, smooth-talking music star who had dozens of girls screaming merely at the sound of his name. Thomas kept up his energy and confident and slightly obnoxious image throughout. Jenny Judd also stood out as the naïve and innocent Kim MacAfee with her gorgeous soprano voice and created a character clearly too eager to grow up and be a woman. Portraying her father Harry MacAfee, Tommy Minter generated many a laugh as he hammed it up for the camera during the family's appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. During some of the dance numbers the large ensemble faltered in their energy, but many of the performers kept up their gusto consistently.

The costumes designed by Olivia Zebron contributed to the color of the show and were completely appropriate to the period, right down to the shoes of the cast. Cooper Hoyle's make-up only enhanced the appearance of the performers, leaving none washed out. While a few set changes were a little drawn out, the principal cast made up for it with their vibrant energy.

With their attention to detail and abundance of color, the cast of "Bye Bye Birdie" was 'honestly sincere' in bringing life to their performance of a challenging musical.

by Marisa Jack of Glenelg Country

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When the lights dimmed at Severna Park High School, the audience went silent, and the Harpies opened with 'We love you Conrad, oh yes we do. We love you Conrad and will be true', a certain energy was displayed from the cast of "Bye, Bye Birdie" that was sure to make for an exciting show, and it was.

The play "Bye, Bye Birdie" is about a rock star named Conrad Birdie who is enlisting into the army, but before he goes, his agent Albert Peterson's secretary, Rose Alvarez wants to plan one last publicity stunt.

So she plans for Conrad Birdie to give one last goodbye kiss to a normal fan of his. That normal fan happens to be Kim MacAfee from Sweet Apple Ohio, who has just recently started going steady with Hugo Peabody. Conrad arrives in Sweet Apple and people of all ages are charmed by him. Kim's family, who Conrad, Albert, and Rose are staying with however, do not approve of the rock-n-roller attitude. Conrad begins to feel stressed out from Albert watching him all the time, and goes out one night with some kids from the town. Immediately the other parents do not approve of their kids staying out so late, so they blame Conrad Birdie and his lifestyle.

The production that Severna Park put on was very energetic and fun. The leads, Albert Peterson and Rose Alvarez, were both very comical when put together. They had great comic timing with one another and knew how to retort to one's comment to give the lines a high level of comedy. Albert and Rose also had great onstage chemistry that was shown by them throughout the play, even when they were in a very serious moment where they were arguing, they still showed some of that attraction which made watching them both onstage an enjoyable experience.

The set pieces of the show were very elaborate and decorated. The creativity was put to good use when it came to the set and props. Some of the set pieces were exceptionally large and did take time to move on and off stage but the amount of time and effort that was put into them made for, visually, a better show. The lighting onstage was vivid and colorful. There were however, some very quick lighting changes made. The stage would be set on green for a second and then switch very suddenly to a pink or red, but the scene had not changed. Though there seemed to be some missed lighting cues, it was made up for very quickly in the ability to make a bright stage look like the darkest night. Some microphone cues were missed as well but the actors projected their voices and hearing was not hard. All in all the technical aspect of the show was bright and colorful and it all really added to the quality of the show.

Severna Park's production of "Bye, Bye Birdie" is an upbeat classic that was enjoyable and funny. The large cast had great energy through out. A high moral made for a fun show.

by Amanda Scarborough of Patapsco High School

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The set elements and costumes of Severna Park High School's production of "Bye Bye Birdie" was simply right on point with the time period. The story of "Bye Bye Birdie" was inspired by the phenomenon of popular singer Elvis Presley and his draft notice into the army in 1958. The rock artist's name "Conrad Birdie" is a play on the name of Conway Twitty who was known for his country music but also for being one of Presley's rock 'n' roll rivals.

Severna Park's stage crew did an awesome job on the set of the musical. The props and the set really worked well together. Also, Olivia Zebron's work on the costumes were much appreciated because the details of the outfits and the shoes were really thought out. Good Job Severna Park!!!

by Christine Awolusi of Patapsco High School

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"Bye Bye Birdie" at Severna Park High School

"Put on a happy face" because Severna Park's visually grasping rendition of "Bye Bye Birdie" is a colorful and stunning performance.

"Bye Bye Birdie" is the story of Conrad Birdie who is a rock star and has just been drafted into the army. Before he leaves, Conrad's manager Albert Peterson will make Conrad kiss one lucky girl from his fan club. That girl is Kim MacAfee! Conrad descends on Sweet Apple, Ohio and the story continues from there.

The leads in Severna Park's "Bye Bye Birdie" all had voices that were well beyond what is normally expected for a high school performance. The song, "Put on a Happy Face" performed by Albert Peterson played by Andrew Keegan is sung exceptionally well and it certainly is a crowd pleaser in the audience.

By far, the most incredible part of this production is the way that the completely student created and built, set, costumes, and props blend together to make one of the best looking high school shows I have ever seen. All costumes and props are proper for the 1960's setting and everything comes together with a incredibly bright color scheme to make everything POP for the audience. The backdrop is made to look like a television when a channel has been put into a test session with the colored bars. It throws you off at first but, then the realization makes you see just how well it fits into the show.

Severna Park's production of "Bye Bye Birdie" will no doubt be remembered for its incredible set and period costumes. It is the school's fourth production of the show and I believe it may be the best.

by James Morton of Patapsco High School

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Picture this; America's hottest and most talented guy is headed off to war and has selected YOU to be the last girl he kisses! Meanwhile the woman responsible for your selection is facing her own romance woes as the man she's been in love with for 8 years struggles to take things further. Severna Park High School's portrayal of "Bye Bye Birdie" adds a new creative spin on the classic teenage tale for their school's 50th anniversary.

"Bye Bye Birdie" was written by Michael Stewart and composed by Lee Adams and Charles Strouse in 1958. Originally a Tony-award winning sensation when it first appeared on Broadway on April 14th, 1960, "Bye Bye Birdie" continues to entertain audiences with both a revival and a movie adaptation. This show is centered around the draft of Conrad Birdie into the war. His manager, Albert Peterson, is facing financial struggles while being pressed for a more permanent relationship with his secretary, Rosie Alvarez. Rose has a brilliant idea that will solve both of Albert's problems. Before Conrad is drafted into the war, he'll perform one last song and bestow one last kiss upon a lucky member of his fan club. Hoping that Rosie can give Albert the push he needs towards proposing, the group heads to Sweet Apple, Ohio where the action takes place. Kim MacAfee is in for a surprise when she's the one selected to be kissed soon after she's been 'pinned' by her boyfriend, Hugo. The small, quiet town is in 'all shook up' as a celebrity rolls through Sweet Apple for his last few days until his service in the war.

Overall, the production was extremely creative. Most production of "Bye Bye Birdie" are executed in a very similar matter, but Severna Park's production incorporated elements one's not used to seeing in this musical. The costumes, sound effects, and props all held true to the time period, truly making you feel like you'd traveled back to 1958 in the center of a simple town. The sets were very new and fit well to the show. Colorful and with many levels, each set definitely contributed to each scene. During the Icehouse scene, instead of showing the location as a place for teens to smoke and hookup, the student directors decided to turn it into a party spot full of dancing and hula-hooping. The Ed Sullivan Show scene was also done in a creative manner. With real video cameras and feeds for the audience to view and a chorus resembling a church choir to chime in during the Ed Sullivan Show, these new elements added to a very enjoyable production.

The cast of Severna Park's "Bye Bye Birdie" was filled with incredible vocal talent and commitment. Kim MacAfee played by Jenny Judd was astounding with her version of 'How Lovely To Be A Woman' and 'One Boy'. The high notes were no problem for Judd who was rarely off-pitch and had amazing breath control which showed through her strong projection. Yasmine Randall and Andrew Keegan who played Rose Alvarez and Albert Peterson respectively, held a clear and clean sound throughout all of their solo numbers and blended their harmonies well in both 'A Healthy, Normal American Boy' and 'Rosie'. Not only

could Randall and Keegan sing, they could dance! Albert's tapping during 'Put On A Happy Face' and Rose's salsa during the Shriners scene was impressive. Supporting actress, Kolby Conrad also made her presence known with her high energy and stayed in character for the entirety of the production. The ensemble as a whole was also pleasing with their commitment to their characters and the time period. The casting for this show was well done as the actors proved scene after scene.

The sets, costumes and props were all very appealing. Each set created a nice visual element with the multiple colors used and the levels they created. The giant "HELLO" block used during 'Telephone Hour' had nice levels for the actors to work with. The set used for the MacAfee home stuck to the plotline and the time period. The walls were covered in Conrad Birdie memorabilia, the kitchen was complete with fridge, stove and tables, the living room full with sofa's that could only have come from the 1950's really added to the quality of the show. The costumers also made very impressive choices. Each costume was unique and each costume piece fit perfectly into the time period. Even the actors shoes and hair stuck to the year. The clever use of props also contributed to the feeling of being in 1958. The rotary telephones, hula-hoops, and Conrad Birdie fan signs sent the audience on a tip back in time. Though these elements were simple, they were perfect for this production.

Severna Park's 50th anniversary production of "Bye Bye Birdie" was thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining. You'll be singing these classic songs for days after watching this musical. The cast and crew's hardwork has truly played off, making the only thing left to do is call up a friend during your own telephone hour and see "Bye Bye Birdie" for yourself!

by Jennifer Hook of Patapsco High School

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For the fourth time in the school's history, during the 50th anniversary of the school, Severna Park High School presented "Bye Bye Birdie", a musical which follows Rose Alvarez in her desire for commitment from Albert Peterson, agent and songwriter for rock star heart throb Conrad Birdie, as they travel to Sweet Apple, Ohio, where Kim MacAfee has been chosen to receive one last kiss from Conrad Birdie before he is sent into the army after being drafted. Severna Park High School's production was both visually and audibly appealing. The production elements were bright and attractive and the music was strong.

The technical elements of Severna Park High School's "Bye Bye Birdie" were appropriate and promoted the overall production. Most outstanding were the set and costumes. From the eye catching colorful HELLO set pieces of 'Telephone Hour' to the MacAfee's home and simple train station, the set looked great and effectively portrayed the location of the scene. All of the costumes were not only appropriate to the time period, but colorful and various. The props were appropriate and specific right down to Mrs. MacAfee's Conrad Birdie apron. The use of the camera onstage to project the Ed Sullivan show live from the stage onto the walls was also a creative use of props and video. Several scene changes were long and inefficient, and there was an obvious mishap where the lights came up before the scene change was finished and a techie was caught in the scene, and forced to dive under the curtain, though it was quickly remedied without crippling the scene.

Each character and the ensemble as a whole had a strong vocal qualities. Kelston Thomas, who played Conrad Birdie has a voice that sounded particularly appropriate for the time period and for his character. Gloria Rasputin, played by Leah Channas, was a particularly entertaining character. She had enough stage presence and humor to draw attention and laughs from the audience. Several of the characters seemed well developed, though felt as though they could've been developed and pushed farther. The ensembles all sounded great and the dynamics in many of the songs were good, especially 'A Healthy, Normal, American Boy' and 'A Lot Of Livin' To Do', where multiple parts sung over each other had interesting harmonies and were all audible. The orchestra was always in time with the actors and was always audible and pleasant to hear.

The overall production of "Bye Bye Birdie" at Severna Park High School, though less lively than possible, was performed well with attractive visual elements and lovely vocal aspects that were appealing and created an enjoyable production.

by Rebecca Day of Patapsco High School