



Maya Shah/The SPOKE

THE SET

The large set portrays a typical 1930s scenery in Budapest. The interior of the parfumerie is complete with long windows, embellished furniture and antique signposts. The outer architecture resembles Art Nouveau, a popular European style that contains asymmetrical shapes, extensive use of arches and stained glass.

“One thing that’s really awesome is that there are

different kinds of rooms and settings within the set. The walls move in and out, and open and close the shop,” said senior Macy Danenhower, who plays lead character Amalia Balash. “There’s a hospital bedroom, a normal bedroom (and) a work room that actually revolves 360 (degrees), which is just such a cool thing to have in a high school production.”

Vanilla ice cream (left): Amalia Balash, played by senior **Macy Danenhower**, sings about meeting her anonymous pen pal while eating vanilla ice cream in her apartment. In the play, Balash initially calls in sick to for the day, but after she hears the exciting news, she decides to go to work.

She Loves Me (below): Georg Nowack, played by senior **Scott Angelides** (center), expresses his joy upon realizing that Amalia Balash loves him. This moment sets up the title of the musical.

THE DANCES

Along with learning various 1930s dances, such as the waltz, ballet and jazz, dancers also play smaller characters in the background of scenes. Co-dance captain and junior Reese Oakes enjoyed blending the dance choreography with characters’ personalities, while acknowledging the inherent challenge in the task.

“A lot of (dancers) have been taught in a technical way, so it’s sometimes difficult to merge that with character. For example, being messy if you’re supposed to be messy, but also keeping the choreography (looking) clean is difficult,” Oakes said. “It’s been a bit of a balance, but I think we’ve figured that out along the way.”

HUNGARIAN HAPPENINGS

’STOGA THEATRE PERFORMS

She Loves Me

Story by Rowan Chetty and Zara Samdani, Staff Reporter and Copy Editor
Design by Raima Saha, Co-Design Editor

Secret love letters, 1930s dancing and a charming cast — this year’s spring musical, “She Loves Me,” leaves the audience “Hungary” for more.

On March 1, ’Stoga Theatre premiered “She Loves Me,” a romantic comedy set in 1930s Budapest. The musical follows the love story of two young clerks — Amalia Balash and Georg Nowack — who work at a local parfumerie. In the days leading up to the musical, directors, stage-crew, cast and dancers worked hard to seamlessly piece together the Hungarian aspects of the production.



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Dancing the days away (left): Co-dance captain and junior **Reese Oakes** (left) dances alongside junior **Ethan Marshall** (right) inside Maracek’s Parfumerie. The featured dancers learned a variety of dance styles for this musical, including the waltz, ballet and jazz.

Romantic atmosphere (below): The full ensemble comes together in the Café Imperiale for a lively dance number. Junior **Brett Baptiste**, below in red, performed a variety of tricks during the song.

HAIR AND MAKEUP/COSTUMES

Tasked with enhancing the physical features of the performers, the hair and makeup crew collaborated with directors Christopher Nation and Nathan Shugart to accurately depict the iconic 1930s appearance. For sophomore and hair and makeup crew co-captain Cindy Wang, a vital part of accurately depicting Hun-

garian culture lies within the characters’ appearances. “The two female leads will be very feminine. They will have lots of curls and lots of warm red (and) pink eye shadow,” Wang said. “All the guys will have side parts (and) we’re going to do aging on some of the characters that makes them look older, as well as

attaching fake mustaches.” Along with distinct makeup and hair, characters wore upper-class, European clothing to resemble the fashion of the time period. The men wore traditional gray and white suits, while women wore vintage dresses accompanied by a velvet handbag or bonnet.



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