

St. Norbert College Presents “Wonderland!”

By: Ella Vandenberg

Recently the SNC Theatre Studies department put on “Wonderland!,” a unique rendition of the classic and popular tale of “Alice in Wonderland.” The performances ran from November 6 to 9 in the Webb Theatre. The cast was made entirely of SNC students, who have invested months of their time into making the show what it was. An added bonus to the performance was that the script was written by SNC Theatre Studies Professor, April Beiswenger.

I had the opportunity to attend the show on opening night, and I thought it brought a fresh and modern energy to an already well-known story. Writing it through the lens of college students made the performance both relatable and realistic. While it did have its fair share of mysticism and riddles like the classic tale, the contemporary themes still shone through.

One of my favorite elements of the play was the unique role assigned to each character. Everyone who has seen any interpretation of “Alice in Wonderland” can recognize the staple characters such as the Cheshire Cat or Mad Hatter. Since this show followed Alice on her journey to the Wonderland Music Festival, each character took on a new role that either aided or hindered her many attempts to secure a ticket to the festival. There was also the incorporation of many relevant songs and pieces of pop culture that made the show feel interactive and new. The mix of subtle and obvious comedic elements, including a perfectly timed dance battle, also prompted a very positive reaction from the audience.

Only an hour in run time, this show packed an abundance of content into a compact show, keeping the viewer actively engaged at all times. The music and comedy greatly enhanced the modern feel that the show was trying to convey. The cohesive transitions and varying storylines ensured viewers always had something to watch. As a theatre fan, I found the show to be both enjoyable and entertaining. The fresh interpretation of a recognizable classic made it memorable for all those who were able to attend.