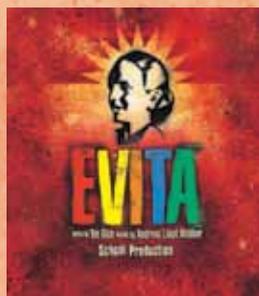


SECONDARY MUSICAL PRODUCTION



EVITA



The

heart of MES Cairo, our 400 seat theatre, pounded with passion throughout the exhilarating performances of this year's spectacular Secondary Musical Production: Evita. A special thanks and congratulations must go out to our talented duo, Director Jonathan Todd and Musical Director, Daniel Tomlin. To compliment the wonderful singing and acting, the show was brought to life by the slick dance routines choreographed by Shelby Fowler.

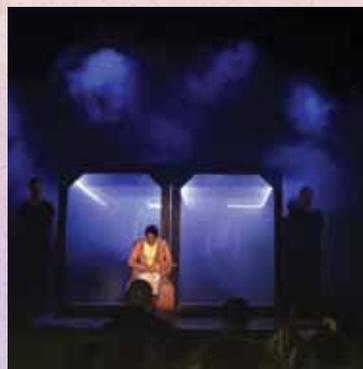
Parents, teachers, students, alumni and visitors to MES Cairo from the wider Cairo community thoroughly enjoyed the superb show. Our talented performers provided a feast for the senses as they told the iconic story of Eva Peron with stunning perfection. Each and every member of the cast

and crew worked together in superb harmony to present this memorable production. Carol Ramy (G11Y), no stranger to the MES Cairo spotlight, played the role of Eva Duarte with finesse, beauty and perfection that would be hard to find on a real Broadway stage. Ahmed Ibrahim (G12R), played the ever present but ephemeral commentator and critic, Che, with style and conviction. Our talented students each played their parts like true artists, deeply involved in their characters. Ismail Abaza (G11R) portrayed General Peron with understated elegance, providing a pragmatic foil to Eva's energetic ambition. Magaldi (Mohamed Fouda DP11Y), The Mistress (Malak Hegab G12R) and every member of the supporting Ensemble all shone brightly in their roles, supported powerfully by the Secondary Choir and by our graceful Dancers.

Our students took on impressive lead roles behind the scenes too, with Mohamed Taymour (G12R) stepping up to the demanding position of Stage Manager this year, supported ably by Omar Soliman (G12B) as his Deputy Stage Manager. Ziad Ayoub (Y11R), Hashem Afifi (DP12Y), Lana Mahmoud (G12R) and Nada El Anany (DP11Y) ran the sound and light with true professionalism from the Control Box, supported and tutored by Michael Baskalis, James Carter and Technical Assistant Laura Sauret. The Production team was strong throughout, and the MES Cairo stage was again enriched by a series of striking tableaux - masterpieces in their own right. The vision of the design by Jonathan Todd was brought into being by Kim Tapsell, Shereen Taha and their Art and Design Technology teams, joined by Dan Mulligan running the impressive projections.

For the matinee performance we were delighted to be visited by NCBIS and also the British School of Alexandria – who journeyed all the way from Alexandria to Cairo for our production! One bright young visitor explained on his way out, "Evita was amazing. She is small but powerful. She was very ambitious and climbed her way to the top. She also has a beautiful voice with a lot of emotion in it. All the students in the show were really good and we had a great time. We liked asking them questions after the performance. Thank you, MES Cairo!"

Ms S Sheehan – Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator





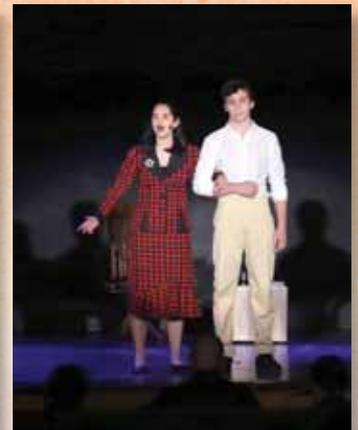
From the Production Team

Evita has been a very special musical production to plan for with its elegant sets and clever use of positioning of scenery to create multi levels for the actors to perform on. The use of black created the illusion of space across the stage and gave it height, as if at times the action was suspended in the air. The action was amplified with the beautiful use of lighting. As always, we would like to thank Tamer El Husseiny and Clement Peter and their teams, for their continued patience and hard work with all our productions. A special thank you must go to Mohamed, our carpenter and Mahmoud, our electrician.

Ms Kim Tapsell - Head of Secondary Visual Arts

It was a pleasure to watch our cast learn about the life of Eva Duarte and her rise to fame. They focused not on the politics but rather on the human beings at the centre of the tale. They developed the relationships between the characters to a truly believable level. As ever, the entire ensemble, stage crew and technical crew worked together in an admirably professional way, each bringing their own contribution to the success of the piece.

Of all the aspects of Theatre I love, seeing our students work so incredibly well together is among my favourites. **Mr J Todd - Director**



REVIEWS – EVITA

Mr P Godfrey - Member of Board of Governors

It is now a week since I had the pleasure of watching the Secondary production of *Evita* and still the tunes and melodies keep haunting me. I can't get them out of my head! I have seen the Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber 1978 musical many times on the West End, London stage. It was their last collaboration together and many aficionados believe it to be their best.

They would have been proud of this MES Cairo show...a great event with a strong story, excellent music, some inventive choreography and the ever present scary and at times disturbing figure of Evita championing the common people in her rise to power in a story of rags to riches in Argentina. The musical follows a young girl's rise to the top of an entire country, where she was heralded as "the spiritual leader of the nation" by the Argentinian people.

The very same people start the show enjoying a movie in the cinema in Buenos Aires when the film is stopped to announce the death of Eva Peron. An ingenious compelling beginning using the projector screen set the stage for a truly creative production which enthralled at every moment through both acts.



Throughout, the staging was sharp, edgy and pacey. In that cinema audience was Che, the prominent figure who stalks the show offering a bitter ironic commentary on it. Ahmed Ibrahim was perfectly cast as the cynical revolutionary who guides you through the show, looking forward and back. Ahmed came of age in this demanding role holding the show together with increasing charisma and confidence excelling in such songs as "The money keeps rolling in (and out)".



Not just anyone can play Eva Duarte Peron - and it was soon clear that Carol Ramy is not just "anyone". From the moment she appeared as Evita she filled the stage with presence and created an entirely believable character full of life, admirably portraying the many different emotions with technical virtuosity. Her voice has an extraordinary range and the different musical genres, rhythms and tones were mastered easily. It is rare to witness such a mature performance from one so young. Mesmerising. Truly a star!

Ismail Abaza played the controversial Argentinian president Peron in his first individual role. You could feel him going from strength to strength growing in confidence by the minute. He portrayed a true understanding of the political dictator. Ismail, this show "was surprisingly good for you." We all look forward to your future roles at MES Cairo.

There are other featured roles in Evita. The flamboyant Magaldi, Evita's former beau, was played by Mohamed Fouda who convinced us all completely especially with his "On this night of a thousand stars". Malak Hegab took the role of Peron's mistress and did very well in her solo spot with "Another suitcase in another hall".

All five of the main actors gave a great example of how excellent diction can make the story understandable and believable for the audience. It was much helped by the simple dark set of steps and platforms moved swiftly and securely by the backstage crew who knew that their contribution was vital to maintain the pace. Congratulations to all of you guys in black who took your jobs so seriously.

I was not the only one who was impressed by the witty choreography and blocking on the stage which the large ensemble confidently executed. The neatly goose-stepping soldiers were engaging.

They were not onstage but they were certainly a major ingredient contributing to the absolute success of this production...namely the thirty-four students who formed the choral ensemble delivering some gorgeously harmonious vocals throughout this long show. Your efforts gave the performance some added dynamism.

MES Cairo has always striven for the very best in performing arts and to reach such a standard requires the help of many, many individuals who never take the spotlight on the stage. On behalf of the cast I thank all of you regulars involved in the lighting and sound, stage managing, set design and execution, make up, compilation of the programme and general assistance.

I know that Ms Shelby Fowler has been congratulated by many on her fresh choreography which was impressive.

Over the years I have run out of superlatives for our Musical Director and overall Director, Daniel Tomlin and Jonathan Todd. This time is no exception. They both know that I can be a harsh critic. This show was a risky choice, incredibly demanding on everyone. Their faith in the ability of our students to deliver has never wavered and they were not let down. It was a magnificent example of what can be achieved if you aim high.

Again, I hear in my head those strains of "Don't cry for me Argentina" and I smile because it reminds me of how proud and privileged I was to be a member of the audience for this classy production.



Thank you all for ensuring that everyone leaving the theatre basked in a feelgood feeling. This is what MES Cairo is all about. Long may it continue.

Ms J Cole - Assistant Head, Years Seven-Nine, British Section

A wonderful production with star quality singing, dynamic choreography and superb team work off and on stage. The backstage crew were swift in the scene changes allowing the cast to sing, dance and bring the story of Evita to life on the MES Cairo theatre stage. Well done to all involved!

Mr M Ingham - Year Three Team Leader

I went to see the school production of Evita on Sunday 11th March with high expectations after the successes of Mary Poppins and Shrek in previous years, and I was not disappointed. Here was a production that clearly showed just how much time and effort had been dedicated to it. Evita is an ambitious production that relies heavily on its two main stars. Ahmed Ibrahim as Che and Carol Ramy as Eva rose to the occasion admirably with an incredible amount to memorise and strong singing voices. Special mention should also go to the black t-shirted stage crew who did a sterling job reconfiguring the constantly changing set. Congratulations to director, Mr Jonathan Todd and Musical Director, Mr Daniel Tomlin for another in a long string of musical successes!



Ms S Clingan - Assistant Head, Years Ten-Twelve, British Section

Evita was exceptional, not just for the outstanding singing, but for the mature acting. "What happens Now?" moved me to tears, through emotive and skilled singing and acting. The performers deserve much credit, but so do the Director and Musical Director as the whole show demonstrated their brilliance.

Ms R Hanlon - Secondary Drama Teacher

An ambitious school show with excellent musical expression both on and off stage and an incredibly well disciplined and effective stage crew.

Ms C Ingham - Secondary English Teacher, British Section

What a wonderful evening this was! The lead performances were at times stirring, at times moving, and the passionate energy with which they were delivered was always incredible.

Mrs Nicola Singleton - Whole School Principal

At MES Cairo we never shy away from a challenge. In selecting Evita as this year's Secondary Musical production, we confronted challenges head on! The demanding score, the formidable characterisation and the complex narrative all made this choice an ambitious one. Yet we had no doubt that our students would rise to the occasion thanks to their carefully curated talents and the many months of rehearsals and preparation that have been invested in bringing Evita to our theatre stage.



Our performing arts culture is such an important part of the MES Cairo tradition. Beyond the accomplished acting, singing and stage presence we have young men and women who have juggled demanding academic studies, committed to a worthy purpose and found community in their endeavour. Self-confidence has been nurtured, as has self-discipline. Time-management has been necessary, as has comradery and tolerance. Staging a production puts almost every quality of our MES Graduate Profile to the test within each of the individuals on stage and those behind the scenes.

The whole of the MES Cairo family can take pride in the achievements of the Evita cast and crew.

