

I won't grow up! Famous last words from the Lost Boys in the winter musical, "Peter Pan." Lost Boy characters pranced around the stage singing songs, dancing and harassing one another to prove that they would not grow up. For the theater crew, they loved being kids and whining, screaming, fighting and getting away with it.

"I like this play a lot because its more uplifting and the kids love it," sophomore Teah Nguyen said. Nguyen played Peter Pan in the February production.

Senior Tamara Graham went into auditions knowing just what she wanted to be. Her eyes were set on Tiger Lily. In fact, most students had their sights set on a specific role. Sophomore Rose Smithson made a striking resemblance to her character, Wendy Darling. She knew that Wendy would be challenging and was ready to take on the big role.

"My mom always told me that if I were to look like any Disney character, I looked like Wendy," Smithson said.

But before curtains rose, the crew spent about two and a half months memorizing lines, creating sets and learning how to fly. Learning how to fly? Yes. Wendy, Peter, Michael, John and Liza experienced flying for the first time in their life. While this aspect of the play delighted the audience, it made some nervous.

"I was a little concerned when I saw the thin rope the characters were being lifted on. But later was assured that there were trained professionals involved and got wrapped up in the magic of it all," audience member Tyler Ash said.

But in order to put the play on, each actor had to pay a performance fee. The fee contributed to the fly system to bring the play to life. The only way to produce the system was to have trained professionals teach the students how to fly. Flying by Foy from New York came in to work with the students to enhance the play even more. The flying factor brought the production to life.

"It's always great watching kids faces and big kids faces too sometimes. It's just something about someone suspended in the air where you're trying to make the audience believe that they're not hooked up to something, and everybody kind of suspends their disbelief and buys into it," Director Mark Swezey said.

Flying wasn't the only thing that set the production apart from previous plays. Peter Pan allowed students to free themselves and act as childish as possible. The Lost Boys, who fell out of their cribs at birth and ended up in Neverland, didn't necessarily have a script, but more improv. Even though she couldn't talk, sophomore Carsen Schroeder, as Tinkerbell, loved going on stage and being a kid.

"My favorite part was the magic of it all. I got to pretend everyday to be someone else. It was like playing as a kid, but people got to watch you enjoy what you were doing," Schroeder said.