

To most, the thought of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* conjures up images of high school English classes and barely understandable lines of dialogue. But what would you think of this play if it was set in a small town in the 1950's backed by the music of Elvis Presley? This pretty much describes the musical *All Shook Up*.

This musical was performed at the North Canton Playhouse March 2nd to the 18th directed by Delorna Toy. The musical focuses on a small Midwest city with an amusing cast of characters. Chad (Maximillian Winer), a "roustabout" who just got out of jail comes to town and shocks the citizens with his motorbike and leather jacket. Immediately almost all of the girls fall madly in love with him, including the town's mechanic, Natalie (Ashley Burtscher). Distressed to see Chad in love with the museum curator, Miss. Sandra (Sarah Jane Toy), Natalie disguises herself as a man named Ed in order to get closer to Chad. Natalie's life-long best friend, Dennis (Ben Arrington), helps her with her plan to win Chad despite being in love with her himself.

To make matters even more complicated, Miss Sandra falls in love with the fake Ed just as Natalie's father, Jim (Doug Downie), also becomes infatuated with Miss Sandra. In the midst of this chaos, Jim's long time friend, Sylvia (Korecca Moore), realizes she's in love with Jim.

While those characters are running around in a complicated love triangle of sorts, Mayor Matilda Hyde (Jennifer Ronecker) tries to enforce the "Mamie Eisenhower laws", which prohibits dancing, tight pants, and public "necking" while she tries to stop her son, Dean (Logan May), from running off with Sylvia's daughter, Lorraine (Jada Pledger).

The plot can be confusing with everyone in love with someone else but the cast does a great job at making this musical understandable with each actor playing their character in a unique way. Even when the cast wasn't speaking, their actions and mannerisms as they acted in the background helped build the reality of the musical.

One of the most entertaining characters to watch was Sheriff Earl (Pat Downing) who didn't even speak until the last few scenes of the musical. The character's constant eating on stage and exaggerated way of searching for the townspeople who broke the Mamie Eisenhower laws made the whole audience laugh as soon as he came on stage.

Another standout character was Miss. Sandra. She attracts the attention of Chad and Jim and also falls in love with Ed who is really just Natalie in disguise. Toy's facial throughout the entire performance was hysterical especially when she realized that her love 'Ed' was actually Natalie.

One of the aspects that make this show truly special is the music which features a variety of songs by Elvis. Some of the biggest musical standouts are the renditions of "Hound Dog" which features Chad and Miss. Sandra as she denies him, "Can't Help Falling in Love" which stars all the main characters and ends Act 1 with a heart stopping number, and "One Night With You" with Natalie singing about her new love for Chad but is reprised every time a character realizes their love for someone- which was often.

One of the highlights of this show was the high energy of the cast. This is a fast-paced show that hardly gives the cast- or the audience- a moment to catch their breath but each scene was better than the last leading to a fantastic happy ending finale with the whole cast. From the very first scene it was evident how funny this show was going to be. Each actor had incredible comedic timing which made the characters and scenes come to life even more.

The audience was laughing out loud for almost the entire 2 hour show. This musical was engaging and well done, having everyone dancing in their seat by the end.