

# “Little Match Girl” lights up stage

By JOSIE MUSICO  
Staff Writer

Toys came to life, a little girl got her Christmas wish and a packed crowd certainly experienced their night's entertainment.

Brownfield schools' production of "The Little Match Girl" opened Thursday night to a middle school auditorium filled with cheers from fans who agreed hard work paid off for its young stars.

"The first performance was very successful," said Co-Director Connie Russell. "The kids did wonderful. It's a great way to start the holiday season."

Supporters who missed the show can catch a repeat performance at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 in the same location. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students. A Mexican stack-up dinner will be held beforehand from 5-7 p.m. in the BMS cafeteria, with tickets \$7 each.

Russell and Co-Director Jacob Lierman encourage the community to attend the musical not only to support their talented young actors and singers, but to experience an evening's worth of live entertainment that will put them in the holiday spirit.

"It's one of those heart-warming Christmas stories," Lierman said. "It's a show that's good for the whole family."

The holiday musical was the result of months of preparation from faculty and students. The cast represented Brownfield Middle and High Schools' theater and choir departments, while art students and staff created the

elaborate stage designs.

"I think it's great integration with the middle school and high school fine arts programs," said Middle School Principal Michelle Cooper. "It helps the middle school students and gives them something to look forward to, showing what dedication and hard work can do."

Based on a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, "The Little Match Girl" tells the story of a poor girl who sees spiritual visions while attempting to warm herself with matches she had been selling on the street. When she eventually runs out of matches and freezes to death, her grandmother carries her soul to heaven, where she will be cold no longer.

The cast agreed that after meeting all semester for twice-weekly after-school practices, and devoting countless additional hours at home to perfecting their lines and songs, the delighted reactions from their audience justified every minute.

"I think it went very smoothly, and middle school did an amazing job," said BHS senior Brianna Barraza. "I really like performing with all these people who love to act as much as I do."

Senior Austin Marlow agreed, "I think it went really well. It was hectic before the show, but we pulled it off and it was worth it."

All proceeds from the performances will go toward the theater department's preparation for next year's show.



Brownfield theater students (left to right) Lexi Willis, Austin Marlow, Tommie J. Garcia, Brianna Barraza, Mallorie Ellis and Victoria Molina light up the stage of the middle school

auditorium. "The Little Match Girl" was well-received Thursday night.



Brownfield ISD Choir Director Connie Russell, right, instructs her young singers. The choir offered a performance Thursday

morning during Mercie Martin's Parental Engagement Committee meeting.

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