Musical review of Frozen 2026

By Denisa Dontu and Róisín Percy

For a little over forty years, the annual school musical at Our Lady's Templemore Secondary School has been a cherished highlight of the school year, bringing together students and staff in a celebration of talent, creativity and dedication.

This year's production was nothing short of amazing, featuring an extraordinary cast of over 230 students from 1st to 6th year. From the electrifying dance routines and dazzling, colourful costumes to the exceptional vocal performances that filled the stage, every element of the show contributed to a truly unforgettable production. The talent, enthusiasm and commitment displayed by all involved captivated the audience night after night and left them up on their feet time and time again, making this year's musical one to remember for years to come.

The show opened with a stunning vocal performance of the song 'Vuelie' by the entire cast, which perfectly set the tone for the rest of the night. This was followed by renditions of 'A Little Bit of You' and 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman' by young Anna and Elsa, portrayed by Suzanne Everard and Katie Dunne, who captivated the young audience. They were joined on stage by King Agnarr and Queen Iduna, brought to life by Aaron Breen and Anna Hlaholyk. The familiar story unfolds as Anna urges Elsa to use her mesmerising powers to build a snowman. However, the scene takes a darker turn as Anna is accidentally struck by her sister's uncontrollable powers, prompting the King and Queen to summon the hidden folk, led by Bulda and Pabbie, played by Ruby Stapleton Higgins and Ollie Morris.

As the show progresses, the audience's attention is drawn to Amy O'Brien (older Anna) and Neala Graham (older Elsa), who portray a heartwarming sisterly relationship. After the accident, the two sisters were isolated from each other after Elsa and her parents mutually agreed it was the only way to protect Anna from Elsa's dangerous powers. This created the contrast between the sisters, with Elsa being cold and Anna being a ray of sunshine in the song 'For the First Time in Forever'.

The bishop, portrayed by Fionn Hayes, announces the tragic death at sea of both the King and Queen. The show continues and is executed perfectly each night, with the scenes of sisterhood, love, magic and sacrifice throughout being nothing short of truly exquisite. "It was exceptional; the voices were just amazing," some audience members described at the end of the show.

Amy captures Anna's joyous and funny personality perfectly, bringing Anna's character to life. She effortlessly balances Anna's comedic and loving nature with the worry and anxiety she had when looking for her sister. Her performance reflects the extensive

preparation done before the show and her natural ability for acting and singing. In our opinion, there could be no other person to portray Anna.

Tom Landy also played his first major role as Hans, the antagonist, and he certainly did not disappoint. His acting was outstanding, and his singing was out of this world. He did a fantastic job with his solo 'Hans of the Southern Isles', hitting every note effortlessly. His chemistry was so convincing during the duet 'Love Is an Open Door' with Anna. We would love to see him in another lead role next year to wow the crowd once more.

Neala Graham portrays the character of Elsa as cold and distant, which created the beautiful contrast between the two sisters in the song ‘For the First Time in Forever’. Neala’s vocal prowess also really shone during her renditions of "Monster" and "Let It Go". This was Neala’s first year having a lead role, and she rose to the occasion effortlessly, delivering an outstanding performance.

This year, Joe Johnston took on the role of Kristoff. His first appearance was in his solo 'Reindeer(s) Are Better Than People'. This song was comedic and highlighted the bond between Kristoff and Sven. This song was right before he met Anna, who has no idea where she is and is dressed in clothing unsuitable for the mountains and the harsh weather. He offers to help her, which Anna reluctantly accepts. During this scene, Anna and Kristoff get into an argument about Anna's decision to marry Hans after one day of knowing him, leading into the song 'What Do You Know About Love?'. Joe Johnston went beyond what was expected of him, and his voice was perfect for the role of Kristoff.

Lucy Daly was amazing to take on the role of Sven. We want to highlight the effort she put in to be Sven. Throughout the whole musical, she was crouched over to create the realistic image of Sven. Not only does this take great physical effort, but it requires great mental strength as well. Lucy also worked alongside Kristoff to make their relationship believable and entertaining. Even with no words, Lucy was able to make the audience laugh and entertain the young audiences during the matinees. This truly shows her dedication to the role, and that is what made Sven come alive.

Andrew Quinlan is one of the most comedic characters again. Last year, he was Lord Farquaad, and this year, he was Olaf. We can say he did not disappoint. His performance had audiences both young and old in fits of laughter, leaving many barely able to catch their breath. His puppeteering skills were also amazing! Andrew truly did bring Olaf's nature to life.

Óran Gleeson took on the role of the Duke of Weselton, whose judgemental nature was portrayed perfectly by Óran. His talent was evident not only through his acting but also through his exceptional singing voice. We would love to see him take on another major role in next year’s production.

Jack Guilfoyle was the perfect choice for the role of Oaken. He brought plenty of humour to the character, capturing Oaken's personality perfectly. His performance in 'Hygge' was particularly impressive, especially as he had to maintain an accent while singing, which is no easy feat. His ability to combine humour with such a demanding vocal performance made this number a memorable highlight of the show.

We would also like to specifically highlight Neala Graham's performance of 'Let It Go' as Elsa. Her performance was truly out of this world. Paper snowflakes hung from the ceiling, icicles were dropped, and snow was blown across the stage, creating a magical winter atmosphere. However, the most exciting moment came when Elsa's coronation dress was dramatically removed on stage, revealing her iconic blue ice dress. This spectacular costume change prompted the entire audience to erupt into applause. The combination of Neala's outstanding vocals, the impressive special effects and the dramatic costume reveal made this performance an unforgettable highlight of the show.

The costumes were spectacular, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Lorna Maher and Saoirse Harrington for their attention to detail. From the elegant ball gowns to Elsa's remarkable costume change, their hard work was evident throughout the production, and we are truly thankful for their efforts.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Fin O'Hara and Alicja Hamill Kolodziejczyk, the co-coordinators for the set design, along with the whole art department, who helped bring this play to life. From the making of Olaf and Sven to the paper snowflakes that descended from the ceiling, it was all possible because of the teamwork behind it. The countless hours dedicated to the set design should not go unnoticed, as the impressive scenery and props played a significant role in making this musical such a memorable production.

A special mention must go to Ms Anne Marie Johnston, whose dedication, organisation and hard work behind the scenes played a vital role in bringing this production to life. Her commitment to ensuring every detail came together seamlessly deserves the highest praise. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to her for all her efforts in making this year's musical such a wonderful success.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to our Stage Managers, Norma Galvin and Ronan Kinane, and their team of Ruth Butler and Fin O Hara, whose hard work and organisation ensured everyone worked together smoothly throughout the production. Their dedication to keeping everything coordinated behind the scenes played an important role in making the show such a success, and we are extremely grateful for their efforts.

Another massive thank you goes towards the people that have co-ordinated this whole musical. We are fortunate to work with Therese Maher (Director & Choreographer) and

Mary Rose McNally (Musical Director) and Music teacher Eva McNally. Mary Rose, together with her orchestra, ensured that the music was brought to life beautifully, with the cast delivering memorable vocal performances throughout the show. Congrats to our music teacher Eva McNally and 6th year student Jennifer Cormack on their fantastic performances in the band. Therese Maher's creativity was evident in the choreography, with energetic dance routines that added excitement to the production. Beyond this, her encouragement and support helped students develop their confidence and shine on stage. Their combined talents and dedication continue to make the school musical a wonderful experience for everyone involved, and they deserve enormous credit for all that they do.

The success of 'Frozen the Musical' is a true reflection of the incredible talent, commitment and teamwork shown by everyone involved. From the outstanding lead performances to the chorus, backstage crew and ushers, every person played an important part in bringing this production to life.

Congratulations to all who contributed to such a spectacular show. Your hard work and dedication shone through every performance, leaving the audience with wonderful memories to take away.