

You Can Do Anything If You Let It

The musical was wonderful and inspiring! The Rochester (NY) area is known for outstanding theatre arts, and this show was no exception. The musical, Mary Poppins, didn't disappoint. Lighting and special effects were high tech. The sets were spectacular. The actors playing Mary Poppins and Bert (played by Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke in the movie) not only were outstanding singers, but also performed their aerial sequences (flying) flawlessly above the stage. Umbrella in hand, Mary Poppins flew from rooftop to rooftop, guided by one of Broadway's best aerial technicians. The big dance numbers, "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocius" and "Step in Time" had the audience tapping their feet as the entire cast danced on stage.



As the show reached its conclusion and the cast came forward for their bows, the audience erupted with one of the most enthusiastic standing ovations I have ever experienced. The show exceeded all expectations, and the audience made sure the performers and technical people knew how much they were appreciated.

What was unique about the show is the cast. Up and coming high school theatre actors played the two adult lead roles and experienced child actors played the youth leads of Jane & Michael Banks. A handful of choral extras added to the singing, but the remainder of the 38-person cast came from a special area program for people with disabilities. The fact that the person playing the bank chairman was blind and several other actors were wheelchair bound didn't matter. Regardless of their lot in life all the actors performed with courage, confidence and pure joy to be on stage in front of family and friends.

Regardless of physical limitations they participated fully in dance, song and acting. No wonder that there were tears of happiness from actors and family alike. This wasn't a one night wonder. It was the 14th musical production by an organization whose purpose is to provide opportunities for individuals with physical and/or developmental disabilities to participate in the performing arts. It is amazing what these people can do if given the opportunity. And the actors looked forward to performing an even bigger role the following year.

We can all learn from the courage shown by the cast of Mary Poppins. How about you? Do you have courage or do you hold back from attempting a task because you are not sure you can do it? Do you think anyone imagined that what we saw on stage was remotely possible? Certainly it took extra effort and a longer rehearsal schedule to prepare this 3 hour show. Many patient, caring adults guided the actors through rehearsals. Dance choreographers were in the orchestra pit, mirroring dance routines during the show, in case the actors needed reassurance. The help was there, enabling an unqualified success.

Do you need extra help as you try to accomplish your goals? God is there for you. Ask Him to be your mentor and your source of support. Step out on that stage of life and sing, dance and act to the fullest. As Mary Poppins says, "You can do anything if you let it."

Question: What is your excuse? What holds you back from achieving what God has enabled you to do?

Scripture: *For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you; Do not fear; I will help you (Isaiah 41:13).*

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father. We tend to make excuses why we shouldn't try to accomplish something. Let us take to heart the example of the actors who successfully overcame their challenges to achieve great things. With your help, O Lord, we can accomplish much, if we let it. Amen.