MVHS's "Play On" Shines Like A Ranchipur Darjeeling Delhi Diamond!
written by Lauren Lee, a senior at Beckman High School

Mission Viejo High School's play-in-a-play features a local community theatre's production of Murder Most Foul. With opening night in three days, the cast and crew scramble to fight off stage fright and infinite rewrites!

Claire Van Ginkel, as Violet Imbry (Diana Lassiter), tastefully embodies "bad" acting skills. Her robotic body language, aggressive hair whips, and intentional monotone vocality create a comical disconnect between her and her scene partners. Ginkel's love confession with Billy Carewe (Ryder Otis) is undoubtedly hilarious as she extends her rigid arms to his heart, then to hers- all with her eyes and torso facing dead center.

Samir Asad, as Murder Most Foul Crew, delivers silent but explosive emotions. His high-energy speeding behind set pieces and dramatic cry when rewrites are handed out perfectly encapsulate the panic the cast feels about the fate of their show. His goofy dancing is unmatched, and his interactions with his fellow crewmates enhance the show's atmosphere, helping complete the world of "Play On".

Elise Coulter steps into the role of Geraldine "Gerry" Dunbar (Director) with a mature air of exasperation only coffee can fix. Her wide eyes and exaggerated neck movements when threatening her actors are as hilarious as they are terrifying. Coulter's firm grip on her yellow pad and loud stomping add to her character's irritable and frantic energy.

Costume Design (Drea Clausen, Claire Treadway, and Leia Chaney) execute Gerry's quick change with ease. In a short 15-20 seconds, Gerry's wardrobe changes from a casual outfit to an evening dress, just in time for the showing of the play. Additionally, Gerry's blue wardrobe effectively represents her desire to be calm and serene despite constant freak-outs.

Sound Design (Elora Mahn) is wrong in all the right places. With telephone ringing, thunder, gunshots, and construction sounds, Mahn makes no effect unheard. The timing of the telephone ringing (and not ringing) is precise and beautifully executed.

Stage Manager (Rowan Farmer), Assistant Stage Managers (Kelly Lance and Ainsley Harrington), and Running Crew (Emma Cortez, Kyle Lance, and Luke Bertram) efficiently run act transitions. A set change from Act I to Act II is done seamlessly during intermission, and the transitions from Act II to Act III are well executed within seconds.

Who knew the living manifestation of a theatre kid's nightmare could be so fun? Come see "Play On" at Mission Viejo High School!