Parting JSerra Catholic High School's "Romeo and Juliet" is Surely a Sweet Sorrow
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William Shakespeare's beloved blueprint for tales of tragic romance, Romeo and Juliet, follows the story of Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet. Both heirs of the two, powerful rival families of Verona, Italy, they fall in love despite their families' long-standing feud. JSerra Catholic High School transforms this classic, innocent but ill-fated love story turned grief-filled calamity into a lesson of both the danger of hate and the power of true love.

Maximus Smaldino and Leah Hauke as Romeo and Juliet utterly dominate the stage with their natural pull towards each other, maintaining an unwavering eye contact during the Capulet ball that builds tension and passion even before a word has been spoken between them.

Francesca Butler as Capulet provides a refreshing air of confidence, most notably in her line delivery, effortlessly able to cleanly enunciate the difficult language of Shakespeare and early-modern English. She perfectly portrays the raw grief of a mother witnessing her young daughter's demise as she lays over the lifeless body of Juliet, producing devastating wails that hauntingly echoed through the theater.

Both quick-witted and sharply clever, Eli Brutocao (Friar Lawrence) and Catherine Bennett (Nurse), provide an air of comedic relief in their expressive reactions and reluctant but loyal support for the schemes of lovesick Romeo and Juliet. However, Brutocao isn't solely impressive in his comedic abilities, delivering a chilling and moving performance in his guilt-ridden admission of having given Juliet the fake-death potion through his boisterous cries and flailing arms that provide a display of genuine distress.

JSerra's Lighting Director, Esmee Guerrero, completely captures the story despite getting the theater's lights fixed two days before opening night. By using the contrasting colors of Montague (blue) and Capulet (red) during Mercutio and Tybalt's intense sword fight, the audience is able to visually see who is winning the fight through which color overpowers the other.

The Set Team, completely student-run (along with the entire production) impressively utilizes handmade foam bricks to recreate the 15th century North Italian architecture of Shakespeare's time. While the theater has limited space to work with, the detailed set design and incorporation of the balcony brought the audience directly into the familiar world of Verona.

Don't miss out on JSerra Catholic High School's rendition of Romeo and Juliet, thy tickets sell quick!