

Five Stars for Aliso Niguel's 9 to 5!

written by Grayce Burke, a junior at University High School

Life as a widow, single mom, and secretary ain't easy for Violet Newstead, and when she accidentally poisons her misogynistic boss, things don't get much easier... initially. With music and lyrics by country sensation Dolly Parton, Aliso Niguel's 9 to 5 is a fierce feminist manifesto that reminds us all to stand up for ourselves and for what is right.

Kayana Coachman commands the stage as Consolidated's overlooked yet hardworking office supervisor, Violet Newstead. With her head lifted high and an upright posture that demands authority, Coachman excellently encapsulates Violet's no-nonsense way of running her section. However, when being a "Violet" and not a "Victor" costs her the promotion she's been vying for, Coachman shifts her demeanor from strict to apoplectic— confronting her sexist boss with a wagging finger and a face scrunched in rage, aptly conveying the indignation that Violet, and many other women at the time, felt in the workplace.

Antagonist to Violet and the girls' efforts for equality, Douglas Beaver III is deliciously deplorable as the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot, Franklin Hart Jr. As he chases Doralee (Gia D'Amelio) in circles around his office, each unsettling pass is dealt with a low, suggesting tone and correspondingly inappropriate gestures. Beaver's crude intonations and physical choices effectively establish his character as a heartless villain for the audience to root against.

Waiting on Hart hand and foot is his ever-loyal, head-over-heels secretary Roz (Madi Rodriguez). Taking slow, sultry strides in Hart's presence and letting out girlish giggles when he walks away, Rodriguez hilariously captures the enamored state of the awkward, doting lover.

Aliso Niguel's hair and makeup team works wonders. Stumbling onto the stage in an intoxicated stupor, Margaret's (Kiki Daly) drunkenness is evident through her unkempt, frizzy hair and smudged red lipstick. But when the efforts of her friends help her maintain sobriety, Aliso's crew transform her into a new woman — her metamorphosis complete with a slick, clean braid and elegant new makeup look.

From typewriters to toilets, Aliso Niguel's props team astounds with their attention to detail. Each interactive item that appears onstage immerses the audience in the colorful, chaotic world of the 1970's.

The talented cast and crew of Aliso Niguel's 9 to 5 deliver a hilarious performance that shines like the sun!