

Capistrano Valley's "The Iliad" Is Worth Every Minute written by Madeleine Cox, a senior at Corona del Mar High School

Through the retelling of many famous Greek mythology tales including the disastrous opening of Pandora's box, the thrilling scheme of the Trojan War, and of course, the gods of Mount Olympus themselves, *The Iliad, the Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less* proves itself to be an unforgettable comedic masterpiece.

Maddie DaSilva's authority as Zeus is clear on stage due to her lively, obscene physical gestures and her booming voice. By menacingly whipping her lightning bolt around in her hand and standing with her shoulders back in a wide, powerful stance, DaSilva uses her unyielding strength to dominate every scene she is in.

Camden Lien brings his own unique rapper-esque portrayal to the character Hermes with his undeniable charisma and swagger. Whether it's sauntering across the stage like he owns it, swinging his arms in front of his chest, or even occasionally beatboxing, Lien brings something new to the table every time he is on stage that makes Hermes a distinctive, memorable character.

The Greek Chorus, although composed of around six people, moved and spoke with the fluidity of a single individual. Every time they delivered lines as a group, they were easily understandable, perfectly synchronized in their speech and extravagant physicality, and never failed to add new and unexpected comedic elements to the scenes they appeared in.

The student directors, Hailey Poirier and Millie Rosen, made many beneficial decisions to enhance audience interaction and give the atmosphere of the show a more energetic feel. Their choice to have a pre-show where the actors interacted with each other and with audience members helped the characters feel more real and lived in, allowing for jokes to land with ease when the show officially began.

Robin Estrada and the CVHS Set Design team created a flawless outline for a house that perfectly encapsulated ancient Greek Architecture. With large, looming columns, intricate gold patterns on the walls and stairs, and moving platforms, the set was not only pleasing to look at, but was also functional in being able to change to fit the needs of each unique scene.

Don't miss Capistrano Valley's *"The Iliad, the Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less"*--time's ticking!