

## **Adventure awaits at Godinez Fundamental's 'She Kills Monsters'**

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Many siblings find it difficult in life to understand each other fully. After a tragic car accident kills her sister Tilly, Agnes Evans seeks to understand her by playing through a personalized Dungeons and Dragons campaign that Tilly had crafted from her own real-world experiences. In Godinez Fundamental High School's production of "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition," the power of understanding and acceptance overcomes the superficial barriers between siblings and individuals.

In particular, Sofia Barrows as Tilly Evans, a.k.a. Tillius the Paladin, is confident and courageous in the game, but meek and vulnerable in the flashbacks before her death. Barrows completely changes her physicality to embody this difference: She clutches her sword firmly and freely when fighting monsters, but she clutches herself timidly and tightly when being bullied by cheerleaders Gabbi and Tina (Lucia Briseno and Isabella Perez, respectively). These two also successfully capture the exaggerated, evil versions of themselves in the game, where they appear as some of the fiercest monsters that even Tillius dares not fight. Briseno and Perez speak and laugh evilly in unison, making their peppy cheerleader spirit creepy and unnerving.

Judith Gomez as Kaliope/Kelly completely transforms herself for each role. As Kelly, she and her disabled limbs scramble on crutches almost erratically, cracking jokes the whole time. As Kaliope the Dark Elf, however, she is stoic and resolute, but still leaning on a staff, and her humor is drier and subtler. These choices demonstrate that someone's outward appearance does not always reflect their true personality.

All of the action is set to thrilling choreography, from stage combat to an actual dance battle. It is inventive and precise, as both fights and dances feature quick movements, such as sword swings and falls.

The show also features beautifully made props, especially the five heads of the Tiamat, a powerful evil dragon, all painted different colors but with a uniform, sturdy frame. Farrah the Fairy (Luz Robles) carries a large, intimidating hammer made from styrofoam.

In Godinez Fundamental's "She Kills Monsters," understanding and love overcome ignorance and hate.