

Los Alamitos's "The Lightning Thief" Is a Thunderous Triumph!  
written by Chris Preusse, a senior at Tesoro High School

When troubled teenager Percy Jackson discovers he is the demigod son of Poseidon, he embarks on a thrilling quest to retrieve Zeus's stolen lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods, battling against Minotaurs, Gorgons, and his own feelings of inadequacy along the way. With the help of his two best friends, Grover and Annabeth, Percy learns to embrace his power and challenges the expectations of both the mortal and divine worlds in this mythical adventure!

AJ Buechler captures the depth of the show's reluctant protagonist Percy Jackson through his dynamically expressive body language. In the beginning of the show, Buechler takes on a withdrawn posture, his arms firmly at his side and his head bowed down, but as Percy gains confidence, he exhibits a more open and outgoing stage presence, his movements becoming bold and expansive. This transformation beautifully communicates Percy's character development, from a self-doubting teen to a courageous hero ready to take on any challenge the gods throw at him.

Myles Zintl lights up the stage as Grover, Percy's lovable satyr sidekick. Zintl's infectious energy and comedic timing breathe life into the character, filling the stage with Grover's goofy charm and rambunctiousness. Yet it's in the emotional number "The Tree on the Hill" where Zintl truly shines, delivering a performance filled with vulnerability and depth that brings a touching layer of complexity to Grover's playful spirit.

The Half-Blood Band rocks the stage with their electrifying performance, bringing the mythical world of Percy Jackson to life! The all-student, five-piece band sets the perfect tone for the high-energy show, delivering powerful rock ballads and intense battle anthems throughout the musical without ever missing a beat, making every moment feel epic and unforgettable.

Alice Farnstrom's lighting design transports the audience straight into the fantastical world of gods and monsters. During the song "D.O.A", UV lights shine on the set and theater to reveal invisible graffiti covering the walls, transforming the entire space into a glowing, neon nightclub, elevating the funk-inspired number to a show-stopping spectacle of color and light. Farnstrom's creativity and technical mastery are nothing short of a Herculean feat.

Stage manager Jenny Woo flawlessly executed the show's 350+ cues, ensuring seamless transitions and a captivating performance.

With such stunning work from the cast and crew alike, Los Alamitos's "The Lightning Thief" is a spectacular adventure that even Dionysus himself would approve of!