Capo's Gray is More Than a Mark

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Welcome to Gray, Indiana, where life is simple, predictable, and pleasantly uneventful. That peace is shattered when a mysterious doctor arrives alongside a deadly illness identified by a strange gray mark. Capistrano Valley brings this tale to life through heartfelt authenticity and deep tragedy.

At the center of the story is June Muldoon, portrayed with irresistible warmth and spirit by Saffryan Adams. Serving as both storyteller and dreamer, Adams pulls the audience into Gray through bright-eyed wonder, a natural southern twang, and an infectious thirst for something beyond the town's borders. She races from childlike excitement to heartbreaking grief with remarkable ease, making every joy feel sweeter and every loss cut deeper. Whether teasing townspeople with tales of her romance with Doctor Gray or searching for hope amid tragedy, Adams makes June impossible not to root for.

Lainey Hudgins delivers one of the production's most heartfelt performances as Rebekah Muldoon, June's widowed mother. Through restrained yet expressive acting, Hudgins captures the burden of a woman carrying both grief and responsibility. A standout moment comes while Rebekah pins clothes to a line and June asks if she is pregnant. Hudgins' hesitant "I don't know" reveals a depth of uncertainty and sorrow that lingers long after the scene ends. Her portrayal balances resilience and vulnerability with remarkable grace.

The townspeople bring Gray to life as a thriving community, making its gradual unraveling even more heartbreaking. Maddia DaSilva's Belva Collins stands out, transforming from a spirited flirt to a victim of the illness, collapsing to the floor in a fit of violent coughing. As fear spreads through town, the ensemble makes every loss resonate.

Giuliana Durston's set design is "as scenic as scenery can be!" A textured towering windmill, complete with rustic rotating blades, stands over the stage while an elevated weathered ramp with an embedded trap door doubles as a storm cellar. These pieces establish the warmth and simplicity of the inviting and lived-in rural Indiana.

The CVHS props team further immerse the audience in Gray's world. Carefully aged household items, handcrafted vegetables, and baskets of vibrant flowers demonstrate impressive attention to detail. Even the smallest pieces contribute to the storytelling, helping transform the stage into a believable small-town community.

Through sincere performances and thoughtful design, Capo's "Anatomy of Gray" turns a story of illness into a moving portrait of love, loss, and hope.