

What are you "Waiting" for? See LAHS's The Addams Family!
written by Grayce Burke, a junior at University High School

There are two things in life Gomez Addams would never do: say no to his wife or say no to his daughter. But when saying yes to one means saying no to the other, he must endure a horrible paradox. And not the good kind of horrible. When Gomez's daughter Wednesday reveals she is engaged, he and his creepy, cooky family must learn to navigate the complexities — and beauties — that change brings.

Evan Pagan is the pinnacle of comedy as the frenetic and bombastic Gomez. With wide swings of his arms he wildly swishes his sword from side to side, even making excited leaps in the air, effectively displaying his dead-set determination on winning his fencing match against his much-less-energetic butler, Lurch (Magnus FrenchCampbell) — whose sword stays stagnantly pointed out like an extra, unmoving limb, aptly communicating his unenthused complacency to the childish head of the household.

Just as hilarious are the less sinister but equally as eccentric Mal and Alice Beineke — Timm Junge and Laila Rain Montana, respectively. Upon entering the Addams' residence, the couple trod with careful steps and a wary upright posture, but as they are influenced by the unorthodox lifestyle of the Addams, their physicality shifts to become more loose and carefree, effectively demonstrating the liberation the two have found in imperfect spontaneity.

With twenty microphones to manage, sound designer Mariah Baquedano does a phenomenal job of ensuring each witty joke and clean harmony is heard. In addition to providing assistance to the actor's projection during the performance, she also compiled a pre-show playlist of quirky gothic songs that effectively set the mood for the impending creepiness of the musical.

The Addams' haunted mansion is a marvel of scenic design. Crafted by the LAHS set crew, the two-story set is a marvelous backdrop of ghoulishness — from its curved wooden staircase to its original wallpaper design, the manor effectually exudes the flamboyant and ghostly energy of its inhabitants.

Full disclosure: if you're looking for one normal night, Los Alamitos's "The Addams Family" is not for you. But, if you've been waiting to be 'pulled' to move toward the darkness, this talented company delivers a truly spectacular performance that's just around the corner.