

CVHS Presents The Addams Family: To Die For
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When a morbidly macabre clan, nestled within a cobwebbed mansion of ancestral eccentricity, invites the sentimental normalcy of the Beineke family into their delightfully dismal domain, a daughter devoted to darkness must reconcile love with lineage, and in doing so, redefines what it means to belong within a world that fears the unfamiliar. Beneath the production's spooky surface is a strong heart, exploring themes of identity, love, and the challenge of change.

At the center of this haunted hearth, Saffryn Adams delivers a Wednesday Addams of chilling precision and unexpected luminosity. With a disciplined physicality: shoulders weighted and indecipherable facials, she constructs a stoic picture that fractures beautifully in "Pulled," revealing a voice of striking richness, controlled vibrato, and soaring belt. Opposite her, Gavin Saman's Gomez Addams is quite the triumph, wielding his body with flamboyant elasticity while anchoring his performance in dire desperation; his buoyant charisma gradually unravels into something poignantly human.

Lauren Swan's Morticia Addams is a study in stillness and restraint as it's radiating an almost imperious disapproval. With every measured step and elegantly folded arm, she exudes an unassailable authority, her presence both commanding and enigmatic. In gleeful contrast, Hailey Poirier's Grandma Addams injects the production with a feverish and high-pitched absurdity, her piercing vocal quality and impeccable comedic timing electrifying each scene she inhabits.

The technical artistry proves equally formidable. Nina Arnold's prop design rises to the production's relentless demands with meticulous craftsmanship, specifically the whimsical illuminated cloud umbrellas. Having such a multi-setting heavy show just increases the demand and was a success in filling in each space. Complementing this visual dynamism, Julian Haniffy's lighting design transcends mere atmosphere; it operates as an emotional metronome, punctuating narrative beats with incisive precision, particularly in the sharp flashes that animate "When You're an Addams."

Costume designer Michaela Rosen curates a tapestry fanfare of extraordinary ambition, crafting nineteen distinct, hand-fashioned costumes that honor individuality while sustaining "ancestors" cohesion. Morticia's transformative gown, ingeniously engineered to shift form mid-performance, epitomizes the production's commitment to aesthetic elegance. This is further presented through the Beineke's higher-class nature and gothic personification of the Addams, while each ancestor's attire contributes to a richly textured visual lineage.

Capistrano Valley High School's The Addams Family: proves itself to be a spectacle, as well as a bold, heartfelt production where the strange feels familiar and every oddity is something worth celebrating.