

JSerra Catholic High School's "12 Angry Jurors" serves justice and raw emotion in the courtroom

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In Reginald Rose's "12 Angry Jurors," twelve people from different paths in life are called to overcome their prejudice and perform their civic duty to deliver justice in a murder trial.

Juror Eight (Nathan Schrodtt) begins as the lone voice voting "not guilty." Collected and even-toned, Schrodtt conveys Juror Eight's level-headedness that sways the jury. Even when faced with violent threats from his critics, Schrodtt remains unflinching, determined to stand up for what's right, even if he stands alone.

In direct opposition to Juror Eight is the strong-willed Juror Three (Clara Pancake). Pancake carries herself with shoulders set back and self-confidence that matches Juror Three's conviction. While she ardently believes in the defendant's guilt, Pancake expresses her volatile emotions with crystal clear articulation and an impeccable balance of volumes.

Juror Nine (Logan Mickelsen) demonstrates the wisdom gained with age and experience. Mickelsen's hunched-over posture and small shuffling steps visually indicate the heaviness of Juror Nine's years and the weight of his thoughts. In small moments of comedic relief, Mickelsen shows Juror Nine's out-of-touch side as he struggles with the controls of the fan remote in the sweltering heat of the deliberation room.

Another noteworthy figure in the room is Juror Eleven (Bethan Elliott). With her gentle manner and consistent European accent, Elliott presents an understated contrast with the other jurors. Juror Eleven's fresh perspective and empathy shine through Elliott's clarity of expression and attentive reactions to her fellow jurors' contradictory ideas.

Further characterizing each unique juror is their signature hair and makeup designs by Trinity Lee. With modern inspiration from red carpet celebrities, Lee parallels ponytails for Jurors Three and Four as both women share a no-nonsense attitude and a self-assured personality. Bold eyeshadow designs coordinate with the red, white, and blue color scheme established by costume designer Meredith Starkenburg.

The set design by Ysabella Padua proves practical and symbolic in various ways. A massive window with views of NYC gives the jurors opportunities to reflect on themselves and their beliefs. The minimalist wall decor and a neutral palette produce an intentionally uncomfortable environment. This atmosphere adds to the tension between jurors as they settle their final verdict.

Technical elements and emotional performances from each juror show that justice reigns when we judge, not by our pasts and pre-conceptions, but with compassion and fact-based evidence.