

San Juan Hills' She Kills Monsters is monstrous amounts of fun!

written by Claire Scott, a junior at Capistrano Valley High School

After the bubbly cheerleader Agnes' (Holland Rollapp) not-so-cool Dungeons and Dragons obsessed little sister, Tilly (Olivia Roselli), dies, she is determined to see her sister in her true light. Through a daring D&D game brought to life, she embarks on a quest of fright and fun. Along the way, she learns about Tilly's life, feelings, friends, and what it truly means to be "cool."

Rollapp portrays Agnes's popular persona with judgmental facials and gestures, like keeping her arms crossed. Her sarcastic tone reveals her reluctance to immerse herself for fear of losing her status. As she discovers more about Tilly, she transforms. Her confidence and acceptance beams through more sincere vocal inflections and body language.

Roselli boldly plays Tilly with assurance as she valiantly twirls her sword and strides across the stage. She becomes timid and helplessly dumbfounded with a disheartened stare when her insecurities are brutally surfaced by the gossipy Evil Tina (Brianna Cook) and Evil Gabbi (Andrea Nalbandian).

Sky Celer hilariously portrays Chuck, a freshman who plays D&D. With perfect comedic timing and commitment, his presence is nothing short of entertaining. Even when the attention is diverted to another point of the stage, Celer remains engaged.

Lillith (Holiday Jones) and Kaliopé (Kasanda Georgi) play their mystical and self-assured characters with impeccable posture. With their real-life personas, Lilly and Kelly, this confidence is lessened by bad posture and softer tones. Their friend Orcus (Connor Keithly) serves comedic relief, saying each line perfectly.

Maddie Halliburton, Agnes's best friend, Vera, brings a comical contrast to the show with her deadpan humor and cunning tone. Her subtlety is the perfect mix with the other larger-than-life characters. Grant Halliburton, Agnes's boyfriend, Miles, shows a caring, nerdy jock through awkward tone and body language.

The hexagonal set, by Slater Richey, Edward Kemp, and Marti Cohen brings D&D to life. Location changes are obvious with set pieces, along with lighting choices (by Lexie Guzuk). Darker colors differentiate the game from real life. Sound choices establish location, and the projections (by Jordyn Tagle) paint a visually capturing image throughout the entire show. Torri Schultz's monsters deliver creativity, the highlight being the stage-dominating dragon with glowing eyes.

The revolution of Agnes shows that being "cool" is more than being pretty or popular, but being kind and loving what you do.

