Dive Into the World of Metamorphoses at Aliso Niguel! written by Maddie DaSilva, a junior at Capistrano Valley High School

Metamorphoses explores a multitude of ancient Greek and Roman myths, all centered around the theme of transformation, and the innate desire for change. Characters are both metaphorically and literally reshaped through water, represented through the striking pool, center stage. Incredibly nuanced and intricate, this production is a breathtaking experience of love, grief, and the human experience.

Alycone (Gabby Tamraz) and her husband, Ceyx (Fisher Compton) pair masterfully with one another, reflecting the power of dedication and devotion. Tamraz's urgent tone and pained expression poignantly portrays her yearning for her lost love, while Compton utilizes booming vocals, calling out for his wife, as he finds himself caught in a sea storm, unable to escape. When the couple reunites, now transformed into brilliant birds, they come together in a gentle, graceful dance, bringing their story to a blissful end.

After being cursed by Aphrodite to fall in love with her own father, Myrrha (Neka Jazaeri) spirals downwards, grappling with her unwanted feelings and growing desires she cannot control. Jazaeri brilliantly reflects her inner turmoil, trembling and clutching herself as her guilt grows. As if literally attempting to shrink into the ground, Jazaeri bows her head in shame, physically separating herself from others, emphasizing her vulnerability.

Lighting (Jackson Cravens, Josh Gagnon) enhances each myth, whether it be flashing green gobos or a golden spotlight, each story is distinctly different, while still maintaining the overarching theme of rebirth and growth. The addition of LEDs lining the pool added immensely to each scene, as the shifting lights emphasize the dynamic movement of the water, and the character arcs.

The set (Isabella Betancourt, Angie Donaldson) utilizes numerous platforms, emphasizing the power dynamics between the powerful Gods and mere mortals. Additionally, the central pool of water is enhanced via a mirror positioned above the stage. The reflection is visually dynamic, making the movement of water far more impactful and visible.

Costumes (Freja Harrison) employ contemporary elements and classic styles in order to blend ancient myths with modernity. The Gods flaunt elevated and elegant pieces, such as Zeus or Aphrodite, who are seen in a polished suit with gold chains and flowing gown respectively. This juxtaposes the mortal ensemble, who sport simplistic dresses and slacks, all in more muted colors.

Aliso Niguel's Metamorphoses is a Transformative Tale!