

St. Margaret's Lord of the Flies is anything but beastly  
written by Ava Trofimoff, a senior at San Juan Hills High School

William Golding's classic novel tells the story of loss of innocence as young boys struggling for power turn to violence to get what they want. Alone on an island during a fictitious World War, the students' desire for order is gradually outweighed by the ecstasy of power.

Ralph (Jake Norton) displays his virtuousness from the start, confidently introducing himself and speaking clearly and boldly, trying to deal with the situation to the best of his ability. Piggy (Mac Ullem) on the other hand, exudes nervous energy, using a high pitched tone and quick pacing to emphasize the characters discomfort with the situation. When Piggy's glasses are later stolen, Ullem never strays from the fact that Piggy can't see, maintaining realism and accuracy throughout. Simon (Paige Minton) bounces around behind these two, physically and vocally emitting a sense of wonder as she gazes at the island. Her dedication to character especially stands out during Simon's episode with the beast, her tense movements and spiraling pace amplify Simon's descent into madness.

Aggressive and impulsive Jack (Brayden Brisbois) and his equally-evil sidekick Roger (Olivia Thimons) control the stage with their malevolent intentions. Intimidating the other children, they move without reservation, holding no regard for the other's well being. Brisbois wickedly spits his disapproval, calling other children "stupid" repeatedly. Thimons becomes most energetic during the violent scenes, pulsating with wrath during Piggy's death.

The play opens with an aquatic scene, choreographed by Paige Minton, using fluid arm movements and synchronized jumps to portray the crash of the airplane that left the boys on the island. Lighting (Gavin Shams) suggests waves and sand with gobos and cool tones from every angle, creating an immersive, oceanic environment. As the show continues, both choreography and lighting continue this high standard. They create an unnerving feeling in the ritual scene as the children circle and dance wildly while the red strobe lighting deepens the descent into evil. Shams also utilizes contrast throughout the show to artfully imply the different levels of power. Jack and Roger standing upstage are illuminated in dark red as they smear blood on their faces, while Ralph, Simon and Piggy sit in a calm pool of blue.

Pass the conch to St. Margaret's Lord of the Flies, and give a moment of attention to their seamless technical elements and exceptional acting.