

Irvine's *The Play That Goes Wrong* is Disastrously Delightful!
written by Alicia Barris, a junior at Beckman High School

In a mix of murder, mishap, and an occasional mug of paint thinner, *The Play That Goes Wrong* features the Cornley Drama Society's cast and crew as they attempt to put on a murder mystery. Through technical trials, a quarreling cast, and multiple people knocked unconscious, the Cornley Drama Society proves that the show must always go on.

Alexis Lozan opens the show as Taylor, a blunt technician dedicated to two things--her tech booth and Britney Spears. With tired eyes, a no-nonsense demeanor, and a brilliant moment of catharsis as she performs one of Florence's 'episodes,' Lozan perfectly encapsulates Taylor as she tries to save a show that's gone toxic.

Landon Jackson portrays the overconfident Max. Between frequent flicks of his tongue and his commitment to showing only his best angles, Jackson ensures that Max's personality shines through, no matter what character Max is portraying. Jackson's paired with Ethan Lu as Robert, whose frustration progresses throughout the show as he loses assorted battles with props, set, and absurd amounts of paint thinner. With compressed anger often expressed under his breath, Lu clearly displays that "good God," Robert needs a break. The two shine while fencing against each other in what eventually becomes a swordless swordfight, simply trying their very best to keep the sinking show afloat.

Stage management (Tess Gibson), sound (Jacob Franklin, Alyssa Shelton, Miriam Negro Velasco, Adrian Hernandez-Hoffman) and lighting (Joy Pelletier, George Yang, Pablo Orozco) work together to execute one of the show's best recurring bits. With every mention of murder, a crimson light fills the stage, accompanied by a cartoonishly ominous sound effect (and one homage to Britney Spears). Lighting and sound's choices elevate the production's tone, and Gibson's masterfully timed cues (of which there are 89) ensure that the show's comedic timing stays razor-sharp, all elements flowing seamlessly.

The set (Alyssa Brown, Nadine Alzarkhani, IHS Set/Scenic Crew) is masterfully constructed. With a total of 8 flats (one including a rotating bookcase), a shockingly sturdy grandfather clock, and assorted furniture pieces (and safety hazards), Haversham Manor is brought to life- even as it all comes crashing down. The collapse of the set mirrors the collapse of the Cornley Drama Society as they fight their way through their show.

With farcical failures, hilarious hijinks, and comical calamities, *The Play That Goes Wrong* is a bloody good time!