All the World's A Stage at LHHS's "Book Of Will"
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Following the true story of the grieving King's Men after the tragic death of the Bard himself, Shakespeare's faithful acting troupe embarks on the rather arduous and lengthy journey of scavenging Renaissance England, determined to compile all of the Bard's masterful works into one folio and preserve his legacy for centuries to come. Laguna Hills High School's "The Book Of Will" illustrates how love, perseverance, and the power of words can transform lives for the better.

With a tenacious, resilient attitude and with brotherly passion for his beloved, now-departed playwright, Henry Condell (Parker Hambrock) fervidly crosses his arms and powerfully plants his feet as he ensures that the greedy publisher, William Jaggard (Jefferson Hall-Díaz), honors the integrity of Shakespeare's plays. With a hopeful tone of voice and a confident, reassuring smile even when times are hard, Hambrock portrays an idealistic, optimistic individual who works to honor his close friend.

Alongside him stands his actor-turned-manager John Heminges (Ben Fuller) who, despite much emotional turmoil, doesn't give up in the face of hardship. With a painful cry for his ill-stricken wife, Rebecca (Jocelyn Hambrock), Fuller reveals a rare, vulnerable dimension of Heminges in an emotionally resonant moment, differing from his level-headed and practical persona throughout the story. Fuller's pragmatic, realistic Heminges serves as a poignant contrast to Hambrock's emotionally-driven Condell, contributing to a complex yet sophisticated friendship dynamic that deepens the sincerity of the story.

Mia Gasca brings an infectious charm to John's daughter Alice Heminges, whose sudden affection for Isaac Jaggard (Mateo Restrepo) leaves her fiercely flustered. From rapid blinking and awkward stuttering to increasingly futile attempts to hide her feelings as she blushes to oblivion, Gasca's expressive physicality makes Alice's infatuation an absolute delight to experience.

An exceptional standout, Harlee Robbins (Town Crier) illuminates the stage with a bright, cheery yell and a confident strut as she announces the town's weekly showings, scroll in hand.

Stage management led by Elliot Watson is a masterclass in organization and attention to detail, featuring flawless execution of scene changes and well-coordinated lighting and sound cues. Despite the challenges of large set pieces, Watson works cohesively alongside the LHHS Deck, Lighting, and Sound Crews, taking care to ensure that the show runs smoothly and with careful precision.

It'd be no tragedy to see Laguna Hills High School's Shakespeare-worthy production of The Book of Will!