

Los Alamitos Brings "The Great Gatsby" to Glittering Life
written by Sydney Ingersoll, a senior at San Clemente High School

Newcomer Nick Carroway enters the intoxicating world of society's elite, drawn irresistibly into Jay Gatsby's orbit, a man who has built both a life and legend around the impossible, almost perilous, desire of reclaiming Daisy Buchanan. Amid the glamour, Los Alamitos exposes a fragile world where wealth hides its own rot.

Evan Pagán captivates as Nick Carroway, capturing a man enthralled by wealth who must slowly confront its hollow core. He bursts onstage, bright-eyed and buoyant, voice warm, posture upright with the eagerness of a man stepping into a world he cannot comprehend. When Daisy speaks of her daughter, he leans in, smile radiant, nodding with genuine enthusiasm; when her airy words fall flat into quiet despair, concern darkens his furrowed brow. Later, dragged by Tom into a secret New York apartment to meet his mistress, Pagán shrinks, shoulders curling inwards, gaze fixed to the floor as the glistening world decays to grime. In a final moment of clarity, Pagán's voice cuts through the elaborate illusion with sharp frustration, piercing the spectacle he once admired with unforgiving honesty.

Michelle Garner floats as Daisy Buchanan with fragile elegance, honeyed Southern drawl and delicately clasped hands painting a woman perfected for display beside Tom's dominating presence. Confidence sparks briefly when Gatsby returns; she waves Tom away with a dismissive flick of her hand, eyes locked on her long-lost love. The defiance, however, is fleeting; Garner reverts back to Tom's arm, poised and distant, a haunting echo of the woman we initially meet.

Myah Sturgell adds a splash of spirited chaos as the Drunken Partygoer, draping herself dramatically across a staircase before staggering offstage with a drink in each hand, raising them high in a toast, perfectly embodying the wild, unbridled energy of Gatsby's legendary parties.

Publicity designers Milo Gih and Claire Marano craft a striking Art Deco logo, rich in jewel tones and inspired by the era's elegance, weaving the iconic green light motif into a design that glimmers with Gatsby's allure.

Costume designer Kasey Chu dazzles with ingenuity, transforming a velvet robe and deep red bedsheet into a breathtaking gown for Myrtle Wilson. Its sweeping fabric radiates the bold, unapologetic glamour Myrtle so desperately craves.

Los Alamitos' "The Great Gatsby" leaves audiences both astonished and aching, a haunting reminder that some dreams shine brightest only when just out of reach.