

Find Yourself on the Road to Santa Margarita's "Hadestown"
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Hadestown relives the Greek myth of two lovers, Orpheus and Eurydice, who set out on a journey of reconnection through the depths of hell. It's an old tale, exploring the pains of love that are tested and ultimately lost.

Joseph Calvo commands the stage as Orpheus, a poor songwriter who dreams of restoring springtime. Calvo plays the guitar live onstage and maintains an angelic falsetto, most notably in Epics I-III, filling the air with a soulful melody. When Eurydice descends back into Hadestown, Calvo collapses to his knees, blinking hard to fight back tears, showcasing Orpheus's destruction of hope. He releases the sapphire iris flower symbolizing their love, accepting he has lost Eurydice again.

Jasmine Ortiz encapsulates the essence of Eurydice, a starving young artist searching for hope and survival. In "All I've Ever Known", Ortiz's ability to embody emotions is pure. With doe-eyed facial expressions and yearning looks, she buries herself into Orpheus's arms, symbolizing the harsh cold reality is overshadowed by his warmth. Contrastingly, in "Flowers", Ortiz flawlessly executes Eurydice's vulnerability. Bathed in blue light full of isolation, she curls in on herself with hunching shoulders, fully regretting the decision of leaving the world above.

Through heavenly harmonies, Madeleine Orozco, Jillian Mooney, and Leksi Akerlind (The Fates) enthrall the audience, all three rich voices blending together effortlessly. With sadistic demeanors and sneers, the enchanting trio synchronize as one, fluttering hand-held fans to intensify the fickle and unpredictable nature of fate.

Costumes (Julia Plush) brilliantly root the story set in the slums of New York during the 1940's. Uses of leather and metallic features give Hades a more authoritative look, even replacing the original buttons of his pin stripe suit with skulls and serpentine designs, truly bringing his dangerous and commanding nature to life. Persephone's striking heels are elevated through floral designs and dazzling rhinestones, perfectly aligning with her vivacious persona.

Having 85% of the show naturally recorded in Park City, Utah, Talon Clark builds an outdoor immersive sound system with open air textures, such as birds chirping and gentle drizzle. Clark manages over 1000 cues, while a dynamic shift of throbbing rumbles and echoing voices emanate throughout the theater, foreshadowing the descent into the dystopian world of Hadestown.

Raise a glass to SMCHS. A toast "to the world we dream about, and the one we live in now."