

Santa Margarita Catholic's Production Of The Matchmaker is Worth A Million Bucks
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Put on your Sunday clothes and come see Santa Margarita Catholic's stunning rendition of "The Matchmaker", as wealthy merchants and lovesick townspeople run through New York City leaving chaos in their wake.

The story begins as the rich and cranky shop-owner Horace Vandergelder (Ethan Diaz) explains that he has hired Dolly Levi (Brianna Velez), an esteemed matchmaker, to find him a wife, but unbeknownst to Vandergelder, Levi has plans to make him her own. Through Levi's manipulation, Vandergelder finds himself in a home with a flighty homeowner, his two runaway clerks, and his touchy niece where he finally notices that love is in the air.

Brianna Velez commands the stage as Dolly Levi. With a constant smirk and articulate hand gestures, Velez makes her character's meddling yet life-loving nature clear. Velez, lowering her vocal tone and holding her head high, effortlessly demonstrates the age and maturity of her character. She portrays Levi's surety with finesse, elegantly striding across the stage while maintaining a ramrod posture and stiff limbs that demand respect from the others on stage.

Heightening the comedy, Robie Troyan portrays Cornelius Hackl, the naive clerk at Vandergelder's shop. After falling in love at first sight, Troyan masterfully demonstrates his awkward and endearing infatuation through limp limbs and a dopey smile as he oogles over his love. As tensions climb, Troyan's sporadic movements and wide eyes make his nervous energy clear, while bringing reprieve to tense situations. Troyan and his best friend, Barnaby Tucker (Tyler Von der Ahe) create the perfect image of brotherhood, consulting each other in tense situations with raised voices and furrowed brows before making serious decisions.

The excellence of the cast is matched by wonderful crews backstage. Costumes, designed by Sarah Atia, exemplify each character's disposition and personality. Horace Vandergelder dons a lavish red and blue coat with gold buttons to demonstrate his wealth. Ermengarde wears a light blue dress to emphasize her whiny and sad demeanor.

The set, designed by Sophie Pennell, makes the production shine by realistically simulating a different setting in each act. In act 2, warm colors, functional windows, and patterned curtains work together to create a lifelike hat shop. In act 3, white-clothed tables and lifelike trees emulate a realistic outdoor cafe.

This fun-filled rendition of the timeless adventure, "The Matchmaker", brings laughs to all.