

University's "The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered" is a Booming Success
written by Taylor Bitton, a senior at Capistrano Valley High School

When "The Bold and the Young" is faced with a compromising ultimatum, it becomes clear that more than the soap opera is destined to be shot. Complete with a sketchy intern, constant quarreling, and insistent requests for soup, this cast of eccentric misfits unifies in a show of hilarity and acting parody.

Jess Kahn embodies the exasperation of Morris, an insecure actor whose rightful suspicions are ignored by all. He fiddles clumsily with his glasses, establishing a lack of confidence that counters the swagger of the others.

Mallika Cadin and Brian Bajak effortlessly alternate between their soap opera character and the actor they portray. Cadin's snobbish and dismissive demeanor dissipates into maternal tenderness and metatheatrical gasps the moment she steps on set. Bajak seamlessly swaps his on-camera captivating accent, charismatic bravado, and cunning chuckles for cranky demands and cynical retorts, all while maintaining delightful comedic delivery.

Juxtaposing Bajak's senile persona are Danielle (Maddy Medvitz) and Keri (Sucheta Sundaram), bursting with youthful energy. With frantic hair twirling and unbroken feminine flair, Medvitz's ditzzy portrayal mesmerizes audiences as she bounces across the stage. Sundaram shares this dazzling display of innocence when among the other characters, but, away from others, her feigned naivety flickers with devious smirks and darting glances.

Uni FX Crew brilliantly elicits the atmosphere of a film set through their cinematic opening sequence and innovative live feeds, pushing audiences into the role of a studio audience.

Uni Sound and Light Crew ingeniously differentiate each scene. In a notable moment, selective lighting pulls focus to the hospital set while the faint murmur of doctors and steady beeping of a heart monitor enhance the ambiance.

Uni Set Crew's choice of lace curtains, a pastel palette, and floral details contrast the dark mood that disrupts the otherwise optimistic show. Clever additions of a craft services table and makeup counter add depth to the actor's character work as they exist in the world beyond their lines.

Uni Costume and Hair & Makeup Crew merge to design distinct character looks. Cybil's crimped and cascading hair paired with a flowy dress and floppy hat convey her mystical quirks while Danielle's glossy locks and baby blue dress with cinched puff sleeves are the epitome of juvenility.

Commitment, comedy, and creativity embolden the stage in University's killer production of "The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered."