

Beckman High School "Maul of the Dead" is a No-Brainer!
written by Abby Jacobs, a sophomore at Tesoro High School

In a world where zombies and rock and roll rule the world, a group of misfits trapped in an abandoned mall in the 1970's must band together in order to stay alive. Through fights, bites, and frights, the people find sanctuary, and even family, in the deserted JC Penny.

Sebastian Boiling (Frank) leads the fight against the zombies, throwing punches and bounding the stage. His attentive stance and alert glances across the store show his desperation to keep himself and Lewis (James Chatary) alive. Their comradery pulls the audience's heartstrings as they promise each other with sincere voices to protect one another. All of their genuine emotions in moments of uncertainty raise the stakes of the show and build suspense in the audience as they fight off the zombies.

Eli Johnston (Cody) brings the funny to the undead, with a rockstar-strut and smolder on his face. He poses outside of the store gate with his legs spread apart and his guitar draped across him. He stands out against the sea of zombies because of the life in his space, revealing his love for Donna (Keila Verdino) despite their distance. Johnston portrays Cody as a zombified Romeo, delivering Verdino records by sliding them under the gate. The genius of the performance is that without ever speaking a word, his exaggerated movements and yearning face as the love-sick rock-and-roller kills!

Rebecca Nazareth, Bel Cope, and Soliman bring life (and death) to the hair and makeup for the show. Nazareth uses liquid latex and toilet paper to crest wounds and lipsticks for blood on the humans and zombies. Cope draws on green veins to infected characters for act 2 in just fifteen minutes! The team's combined effort illustrates the apocalypse world of zombies and creates an immersive experience for the audience!

The stage management duo Siena Lee and Sophie Martin execute each of their cues and jobs perfectly, from the rolling fog as the zombies approach to assisting Kaley Li and the running crew to raise the JC Penny gate. They communicate backstage with walkie-talkies to connect with the crew, ensuring a smooth show.

"Maul of the Dead" at Beckman High School combines zany zombies and hilarious hijinks to create infectious fun.