

Twelfth Night at Aliso Niguel Provides an “Arrgh”uably Amusing Time!  
written by Ellie Kim, a junior at Capistrano Valley High School

Unrequited pining and outrageous jests are found in Twelfth Night, as a complicated love triangle unfurls between the shipwrecked Viola, disguised as “Cesario,” the noble Duke Orsino, and the aristocratic Olivia, with jesters and fools creating tricky obstacles along the way. The initial shipwreck of Viola and her twin, Sebastian, is taken to whole new heights with Aliso Niguel’s pirating and 1820s New Orleans theme.

The sheer power and urgency behind Viola’s (Donatella To) piercing scream aboard the ship eventually reflects her iron-willed mindset to win Orsino’s (Arjun Nambiar) heart. She travels with pumping legs and stick-straight arms that reveal her unending determination, both for his reciprocation, and also for her avoidance of the flustered and infatuated Olivia (Josie Cook). Olivia’s relentless brow-raising and smirking fail to attract the pre-occupied and stone-faced “Cesario,” establishing witty, bantering scenes between the two.

Toby Belch (Nick Breen), meanwhile, assumes an eternally drunken state of living as he hobbles about the stage in clumsy, uneven strides. He constantly grabs onto other characters for support and projects his booming, slurring words with no remorse. This chaotic behavior is only encouraged by Maria (Mia Perez), whose ever-flowing arms and liquid-smooth voice give off a unique and eye-catching eccentricity.

Sir Andrew (Eli Gunn) and Fabian (Emily Chapman) join Toby Belch and Maria with their cartoonish gaits and unrestrained laughter to form a hysterical pandemonium of a pirate crew.

Set Crew (Cassidy Gurzi) conjures up a dazzling piece of Louisiana with their looming two-story set, connected by a grand spiral staircase down the middle. Purple, green, and gold bunting flags boldly decorate the upstairs railings, celebrating Mardi Gras.

Costumes Crew (Brooke Chirpka) uses flamboyant, multi-colored skirts for the ensemble parade that shine and flash with luminescence to parallel their wild movements. In stark contrast, the dizzying array of swishing shawls, baggy trousers, and laced-up boots summon the pirates directly out of storybooks.

The authentic mandolin that Props Crew (Kiki Daly) gives Feste (Jordan Brown) rings out in vibrant tunes that unleash bouts of warmth with every strum.

Hair and Makeup Crew’s (Ghost Christensen) huge yet neat ponytail wig turns Orsino into a man of honorable status. Simultaneously, the plethora of beads they string into the pirates’ braids create intricate hairstyles that mimic iconic pirates in history.

In short, Aliso Niguel’s Twelfth Night passionately commands the seas in all aspects!