

Mission Viejo Kills It with Their Production of Clue

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The classic murder mystery story of who done it takes the stage with Mission Viejo's campy adaptation of Clue. Six uniquely different strangers show up to a dinner party having nothing in common with one another, only to discover they've all been blackmailed by the same person. This person being: the host. The story follows these strangers as they navigate the dinner party, along with unveiling the unexpected murders that occur along the way.

The show starts with the pretentious and sophisticated butler Wadsworth, portrayed by Caleb Smith, immediately breaking the fourth wall and addressing the audience. Throughout the production Smith thrives with his over-the-top physicality and amazing accent skills. His comedic timing is also exquisitely executed, with subtle pauses and glances at the audience to make the jokes land.

Adam Cox, who played Mr. Green, definitely stole the show with his awkward and almost boneless physicality. From his excessive sneezing, to perfectly awkward falls, he made the character his own.

Not only did each actor fully embody their characters in a natural manner despite the campy nature of the play, the interactions between each character were perfectly implemented. From Mrs. Peacock's (Hannah Stonebarger) continuous and purposefully delayed screams while running across the stage, to Professor Plum (Preston Veravanich) and Miss Scarlet's (Maya Garcia) flirty interactions while both admiring their own beauties through the reflection of their spoons during the dinner scene.

Sound made the production shine. The lighting, with a mixture of bright red lights from the outside of the manor with the crash of lightning as soon as the play started set the mood for the whole night.

As for costumes and hair/makeup, the subtle details made brought the characters' differences to life. From taking inspiration from the 1950s for most characters, and the 1940's for Mrs. Peacock to portray her age difference to the rest of the characters, to the subtle yet noticeable ode to the characters colors from the board game incorporated into each of their outfits. These elements together created a beautiful canvas for the actors to work off of to fully immerse in their acting choices.

Mission Viejo's talented cast and crew created a campy, over the top, and exquisitely, hilariously, self-aware portrayal of Clue that emphasized the importance of humor in theatre.