

More Than a Rumble at Santa Margarita's The Outsiders
written by Rebecca Supran, a sophomore at San Clemente High School

The Socs have the money. The Greasers have the heart. But when fists fly and friendships fracture, who really comes out on top? SMC's The Outsiders brings S.E. Hinton's beloved novel to life with striking emotion and realism, weaving brotherhood, loss, and loyalty into one powerful production.

Set in 1960's Tulsa, The Outsiders follows Ponyboy Curtis, a Greaser on the wrong side of a divided town. As tensions with the privileged Socs escalate, Ponyboy confronts questions of identity, loyalty, and what it means to "stay gold."

Bringing the introspective Ponyboy to life, Ryan Nouri delivered an irreplaceable performance. He narrated with ease, seamlessly shifting between audience asides and character dialogue, keeping viewers fully engaged. His light-footed gait, hands often tucked into his pockets, and guarded stance effectively conveyed Ponyboy's cautious vulnerability. These measured choices contrasted with Joseph Calvo's portrayal of Sodapop, whose relaxed movements and ever-present football highlighted his carefree nature. Their chemistry felt authentic, from ruffled hair to easy pats on the back, capturing the ease of brotherhood.

Equally compelling was Jillian Mooney's performance as Cherry Valance, the redheaded Soc unafraid to stand up for herself. She carried herself with confident, upright posture and deliberate movement across the stage. In vulnerable moments, Mooney subtly adjusted her cardigan and crossed her arms, revealing Cherry's more guarded side, a sharp contrast to her usual composure. Her dynamic with Nouri felt genuine and nuanced, grounding their scenes in honesty and emotional balance.

From the moment the curtain rose, SMC's behind-the-scenes crew established a rugged and immersive world. Led by Elizabeth Boyer, the scenic crew created a two-story Greaser hang-out, adorned with worn road signs and climbable metal gates. Swings and tires throughout the space allowed the ensemble to interact with the set, turning the stage into a dynamic environment from every angle. The Hair and Makeup crew, led by Jacquelyn Wingate, told a story all their own: the Greasers' grime and bruises contrasted with the Socs' cleaner looks and brighter eye makeup. Tissue and liquid latex were skillfully applied to craft lifelike scars that deepened the production's gritty realism.

SMC's production of The Outsiders leaves a lasting impression, proving that brotherhood, loyalty, and "staying gold" are worth standing up for- because in the end, whether you're a Soc or a Greaser, we all see the same sunset.