

Mission Viejo's, The Crucible is a Daunting Tale to Behold
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The Crucible is a classic tale, written by Arthur Miller, telling the story of the Salem witch trials, and the overbearing religious view during the time. In this version, however, the story is told from the perspective of a cut-off, almost cult society of the 1980s. We follow the story of John Proctor and the girls of this town through tales of spirits and bartering with Lucifer.

Jack Maxwell, who plays John Proctor, drips with passion and devotion, connecting with the character deeply and showing a true contempt for Abigail Williams (Brielle Thomson). John's bond to Elizabeth Proctor, played by Annabelle Shumaker, is shown through the closing of distance throughout the show, starting off barely able to touch her, then finally embracing her and accepting her love.

Abigail Williams, played by Brielle Thomson, portrays the sultry and succubus nature of Abigail with goody two shoes innocence, and a modest tongue. Throughout the play, she keeps her innocence, cleverly mocking and accusing women of being witches through her well-structured possessions and screams truly worthy of a horror movie.

The immaculate set of almost a junkyard society was created by Aiden Wan, and Emma Cortez, giving us a static and blank canvas for the actors to paint their emotion. The use of a raked stage gave characters overbearing authority to look out to the rest of the scene as if showing a God-like nature.

The lights, run by Claire Van Ginkel, gave the stage a gloomy and somber tone to the show, reinforcing the idea of just how cut off these people were from society. During a scene, in which the characters are at dusk, Claire superbly blends the lights so shades of aerie green and hazy yellow are shown onto the characters, giving them a grim disposition and harsh look.

Costumes, designed and created by Kristina Gist, show the modesty and sovereign rule that has overtaken the people. Throughout the show, we see costumes from many different time periods, displaying the closed-off nature of this society. The "sinful" characters bore no cross or holy symbol, whereas the truly holy and devout wore it proudly for all to see.

Overall, Mission Viejo's The Crucible brilliantly shows the true nature of man, when faced with an idea that could shake us to the core.