

Rise up with Santa Margarita's "Voices of Courage"

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Students at Santa Margarita Catholic take their opportunity to speak out on some of the world's most polarizing and emotional topics through their play "Voices of Courage", a performance composed of seven student-written, directed, and produced scenes that highlight various situations in today's world where a voice of courage is hard to find.

Story Weavers Makena Horn, Delaney Jankanish, Savannah Jimenez, Jane Marquis, Lindley Kate McKenzie, Mary Katherine Riley, and Garrett Webb serve as the directors of their respective scenes, each fully in charge of all theatrical and technical elements in their piece of the show. The Weavers worked closely alongside their crews and cast to produce scenes held significance to all parties involved, discussing topics like anxiety, body image, and disability discrimination. To unify each scene into one cohesive performance, the Weavers ended each scene asking the audience to speak out on the presence of each issue in their own lives with their own voices of courage.

The performance on body image "Adjusting to a Sick Society" uses striking interpretive dance set to spoken word to show the fundamental issues people have when it comes to loving themselves. Choreographer Savannah Jimenez makes beautiful movement bursting with energy that encompasses all dancers in the same heart-wrenching story.

Lily Scannell plays the title role in the scene "Alex and You", which tackles the subject of crippling anxiety. With eyes wide and arms flailing in distress, Scannell transports the audience into the mind of someone with true pain. The Mind Monsters (Caroline Benser, Olivia Pannell, and Danielle Reyes) haunt Alex as the physical manifestation of her own anxiety, skulking about as Alex crumbles into complete hopelessness.

The Projection Design Team ran by Lindley Kate McKenzie and Jane Marquis enhance each performance even further with eye-catching visuals to supplement the actors. The scene "A World That Wasn't Made for Us" utilizes videos of darting eyes and closeups of the actors to personalize the experience and make things more intimate with the audience. In "What Will You Do?", the actors have poster-like photos of inspirational figures plastered on the walls behind them as they recite quotes from said figures.

This impressive collaboration of so many hardworking students at Santa Margarita encourages us to rise up against the topics that are hard to talk about, and finding ways to use our own voices of courage every day.