

The cast of Fullerton Union's "The Skin of Our Teeth" delivers a performance that could withstand any natural disaster
written by J.D. Cavalluzzi, a sophomore at El Dorado High School

"The Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder, a show in a show of sorts, follows the Antrobuses, a family of four, and their maid, Sabina, as they survive a number of apocalypse-level disasters by the skin of their teeth, the actors intentionally breaking character occasionally along the way. The play ultimately reveals humanity's dual capacity for creation and destruction and its resilience through it all.

Alexis Helmer (Sabina) opens the show, tittering around the stage cleaning the Antrobus house and introducing the characters. Comically looking side to side with alarmed confusion, Helmer introduces the first of many breaks of the fourth wall. Helmer delivers a character the audience can empathize with, creating a gateway into the world of the show. She moves with whimsy, demonstrating a clear understanding of her character's depth and complexity.

Nolan Shirk (Mr. George Antrobus) laughs heartily and speaks with a booming voice to portray his larger than life character; further, he portrays the more fatherly and tender parts of Mr. Antrobus expertly, knowing exactly when to exchange his booming tone for a softer one to emphasize specific words and phrases.

A masterful attention to detail is shown by the entire tech team. From the skin on the neck of the Antrobus's pet dinosaur to the specific choices of fabric for the fortune teller's stand, a keen eye for detail successfully elevates what would have otherwise been good to spectacular.

Micah Plick (Lighting Designer) creates a visually stunning atmosphere synthesizing on-stage light with the background cyclorama. White lights flash as lightning and the cyc is lit in orange and red, transforming the stage into this crisis-prone world subtly without distracting from the actors.

This lighting pairs well with a professional-looking set. From the artwork hanging on the walls of the Antrobus house to the vases selected for the table, audiences can see the facade of perfection the family puts on. Flashing lights on signs with bright lettering and white and navy moving chairs subsequently capture the feeling of an Atlantic City boardwalk skillfully.

"The Skin of Our Teeth" provides audiences with the perfect mix of comic moments and thought-provoking ones as well, in no small part due to the stellar work the entire cast has put in.