

Don't Let the Anticipation Fester, Enjoy Beckman's "The Addams Family!"  
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Meet the Addams family with its two loving parents and children. Strangely, they also wear all black, live in Central Park, and enjoy a light torture session. As Wednesday Addams and Lucas Beineke prepare to announce their engagement to their respective families, Uncle Fester and the ancestors meddle to ensure that love triumphs. As skeletons fall out of the closet, Beckman's "The Addams Family" brings life to this story of family, forgiveness, and love.

Jenna Josserand portrays Morticia, the no-nonsense matriarch of the Addams family, as she glides across the stage with a confident stare. In "Just Around the Corner," Josserand laments about her life and jokes about death with gruesome one-liners and strong vocals. With Eli Johnston as her devoted Gomez, she meets his consistent advances of love with glares and biting remarks but ultimately allows a passionate tango.

Narrating the show, Tyler Sadon, as Fester, breaks the fourth wall with dramatic monologues and skillful comedic timing. Sadon leads the ancestors with craftiness and flair to save Wednesday's romance. In "The Moon and Me," Sadon naively details their love for the Moon alongside Katie Matsui's impressive ballet technique as the Moon.

With a cheerful voice and smiling facade, Paityn Bowen initially delivers rhymes as the happy Alice Beineke. However, she drops the smile and sing-song voice to darkly declare her discontent with her marriage during "Waiting." In "Crazier Than You," she genuinely rediscovers love as she freely dances with her husband.

During "When You're An Addams," each Addams ancestor develops the show's morbid atmosphere through their corpse-like movement and unique personalities. The ancestors meet a celebrity, Emerson Schonfelder, as the Grim Reaper in "Just Around the Corner." Schonfelder takes pictures, shakes hands, and kills many of the ancestors throughout the song.

Hair and makeup, by Cesca Verdino, distinguishes between the living, dead, and undecided onstage. Morticia's dramatic eye makeup and sharp contour create the ageless look of the alluring mother. Meanwhile, her cool color palette pairs with Gomez's warm tones to contrast the personalities of the couple.

Publicity by Emerson Schonfelder cleverly spreads awareness for the production through spirit weeks and flash mobs. With a six-minute documentary before the show, Schonfelder informs the public about the entire rehearsal process for the cast and crew.

Full Disclosure: Beckman's spooky performance of "The Addams Family" goes beyond one normal night!