

Irvine High's "Noises Off" is a farce to be reckoned with

written by Annie Gelfer, a junior at Laguna Hills High School

Irvine High School's production of "Noises Off" is a perfectly controlled chaos that constantly embraces disaster and celebrates farce to make for one hilarious experience.

"Noises Off" follows a group of sloppy actors through three different performances of their odd play, "Nothing On." Throughout their show's run, drama and tension sparks between the actors which forces them to throw caution to the wind and put on the best show they can for their audience, despite many mishaps.

One actor that particularly stands out is Lorenzo Isacs, who plays Garry Lejeune, an easily provoked actor. Isacs' performance is absolutely packed with frenzied energy which is on full display when he chases his castmate backstage with an axe raised high above his head. He also forcefully slams his head into the wall to demonstrate his deteriorating ability to deal with the madness going on around him. Another memorable performance comes from Cece Labowe playing an offbeat actress, Dotty Otley. Labowe uses a loud cockney accent to effectively exaggerate her character's wackiness. Both Isacs and Labowe fully commit to their characters and don't shy away from making themselves larger-than-life with their boundless physicality and volume.

Shamini Balasubramanian shines as the awestruck, peacemaking actress Belinda Blair. Balasubramanian is hilarious when she runs up the stairs, laughing wildly and pretending the mop in her hand is her castmate as she recites his lines with fervor. She also uses her voice incredibly well by making a distinction between when she is in character and out of character. She purposefully cuts the quality of her delivery to show how her character would be bad at acting.

The entire cast's interactions with one another are extremely calculated, intentional, and committed which significantly adds to the performance. Everyone's chemistry and timing are impeccable, creating a conscious and deliberately chaotic show.

An exceptionally outstanding part of the show is the two-story, double-sided set created entirely by students. Actors are constantly running up and down stairs and leaning over the railings on the set, proving just how sturdy and impressive it really is. Another superb element is the stage management by Izzy Barbosa. This show is especially complex, and she pulls off managing it wonderfully.

Altogether, Irvine High School's performance of "Noises Off" is memorable and lively, with a standout cast that fully encapsulates the spirit of comedic theatre.