

San Clemente's "12 Angry Jurors" Reaches a Stellar Verdict

written by Bella Gordon, a sophomore at San Juan Hills High School

It's a sweltering summer day in New York, and twelve jurors deliberate on a seemingly unequivocal "guilty" case. Tensions grow higher and debates evolve into feverish arguments as they delve deeper into themselves to shed personal biases to deliver justice.

As the ensemble engages in discussion throughout the show, each juror embodies a distinct temperament that contrasts those of the other jurors. Though the jurors constantly and stubbornly bicker, during a botched reenactment of the case, they unite into one by collectively leaping from their seats and screaming at Juror #3.

Portraying the abrasive Juror #3, Gunnar Arnwine is unyieldingly bitter and scornful. When jurors argue for a not-guilty verdict, Arnwine indignantly shakes his head as he mutters to himself, aggressively taps his foot, and grimaces and glares at the jurors. Brielle Jenkins portrays the level-headed Juror #4, the antithesis of Juror #3, with a composed voice and perfect posture. Jenkins sits with her back straight and one leg crossed over the other as she intently listens to the fervent debates and takes notes.

Juror #12 (Zack Mallgrave), while focused on the case, is unflappable as he blithely leans back in his chair, smokes a cigarette, and hoists his feet onto the table with total nonchalance. William King as Juror #9 utilizes a mellow tone as he speaks in favor of not-guilty, expressing his thoughts in a quiet but firm manner while thoughtfully leaning forward onto his cane.

The set, constructed by Sonora Wells, Shane Robertson, Sara Faunce, and Logan Ruby, creates a cramped fish bowl-like effect. Three walls sequester jurors in a room with only a single window and door to contact the outside world, adding to the tension as the jurors are trapped with each other. The audio design (Jack Page, Kyle Roland, Landon Webber) emulates cars driving by, car honks, and street noise, immersing the audience into the jurors' metropolitan landscape.

Costume (Sophie Matossian, Lauren Page) and makeup (Avery Hazeleur, Grace Giranda, Celina Gonzalez, Riya Khetarpal) designs work together to solidify the personalities of each character. The poised Juror #4 dons an impeccably ironed outfit and her hair is tidily styled into a classic 60s beehive.

Through skillful acting and technical elements, San Clemente High School delivers a production of "12 Angry Jurors" that insightfully comments on social class and the distortion of truth and justice.