

## **This is certainly not one normal night at Mater Dei's "The Addams Family"**

written by Samantha Stokes, a junior at Crean Lutheran High School

The Addams are what one would deem a completely normal family. That is, if you have a taste for death, only wear shades of black, and revel in unspeakable sorrow. When the eldest daughter of the Addams family, Wednesday, falls for a conventionally normal boy named Lucas Beineke, their vastly different families are forced to come together and accept each other's discrepancies in "The Addams Family."

As the head of the household, Gomez (Sebastian Ledesma) introduces the family with a flourish during "When You're An Addams." Ledesma portrays Gomez with impressive comedic timing as he suavely struts about the stage, articulating each word with a realistic Spanish accent. By his side is his voluptuous wife, Morticia (Stella Pozuolli), who maintains a self-assured air about her walk and facial expressions that excellently exudes Morticia's confidence in the Addams way of living.

Overcome by her love for Lucas (Owen Logan), Wednesday (Maureen Beld) attempts to make herself and her family appear more "normal" to the Beinekes. Beld plays the enamored teen with remarkable vocal skill, reaching every high note with power and ease. Her strong vocals are complemented by the commanding way in which she strides about the stage, making Wednesday's impulsive nature discernable from the cautious Lucas. Together, Beld and Logan portray the inseparable duo with a convincing dynamic, particularly shining during their duet "Crazier Than You."

As the chaos unfolds, the family's butler Lurch (Noah Dang) remains silent in the background. Dang stands with a mute, yet ominous presence that perfectly fits the eerie atmosphere of the Addams household. During the finale "Move Toward The Darkness," Dang sings with impressive vocal skill and range, while maintaining Lurch's quintessential haunting demeanor.

The lighting design is excellently done by Casey Fort who creates an exceptional lighting design that perfectly captures the mysterious ambience of the show.

Stage manager Maggie Inge Hohenstein perfectly times each cue throughout the performance. Every lighting, sound, and set movement cue happen in an orderly manner, allowing for an overall seamless production.

Through the efforts of phenomenal actors and dedicated technical teams, Mater Dei's "The Addams Family" is a remarkable performance that tells a touching story of love, acceptance, and family.