

Spotlight on the moonlight, University's 'The Old Man and The Old Moon' shines
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Upon a cliff by the sea, lives The Old Man and The Old Woman. Every night, The Old Man tends to the Old Moon, refilling its endlessly dripping light. Out of the blue, his wife leaves home. His wonderfully whimsical journey across, air, land, and sea to find her brings light to the impalpable power of love.

A touching tale accompanied by an eclectic ensemble and a stellar set, University High School delivers the tear-jerking adventure of "The Old Man and The Old Moon".

Starring as the weary Old Man, Davide Costa is timid and feeble. Despite his hunching stature, Costa lights up the stage with his constant wonderment and lovable awkwardness. As the moon's light fades, Costa's pleasant demeanor is challenged by the stressful conditions and obstacles he encounters. Later, he begins to display more liveliness as his long-forgotten memories resurface.

Stern and fierce independence characterize Hiromi Nishida's portrayal of Matheson. From second in command to the ship's captain, Nishida's enticing storytelling transforms into an apprehensive order as her suspicions of The Old Man grow. Sporting a tight bun and straight face, her authority is unmatched.

With their eccentric personalities, Zaman Merchant and Steven DeKeyser are the dynamic Callahan and Mabelu. Merchant's feisty fists and aggressiveness coincide with DeKeyser's nutty commentary and skillful comic timing. Restless and ragged, Gino Torquato is the crazed Perry. Each burst of blabber is amusing yet unsettling.

Lighting by Thomas Kim and operated by Andrew Kurani are dazzling. The Old Moon glows among the dim set and gradually loses its light in sections as it drips. Complemented by the suspended jars filled with twinkling Christmas lights, the night sky glimmers. In the fight scene between the sailors and rebels, the red and white strobe lights enhance the chaotic combat.

Emi Nishida and Logan Clarke's puppetry effects and design are incredibly detailed and adorable. Contained in a rectangular box, the shadow puppets are illuminated by flashing lights. Everything from the ship sailing at sea to the wavering tail of the giant fish is made of luan wood and flawlessly executed onstage.

"The Old Man and The Old Moon" at University delights with entrancing performers and an unforgettable adventure among the tides.