

Unearthing Magic in the Deserts of "Holes" at Laguna Beach High School
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In the unforgiving desert of Camp Green Lake, Laguna Beach High School presents the captivating tale of "Holes" by Louis Sachar. The narrative unrolls through a bare landscape, where destiny and transformation meet in a whirlwind of friendship, mystery, and rescue.

In a moment of profound connection, Stanley Yelnats (Marco Lapayese-Calderon) thanks the other campers for digging his hole, a selfless act after he takes the blame for stolen sunflower seeds. However, he soon discovers that no one dug his hole. It's at this moment that a touching connection forms between Lapayese-Calderon and Hazel Zeroni (Lila Tacklind). Lapayese-Calderon's realization that Tacklind dug his hole for him is palpable in his open body language and instant softening of tone. In this moment, a bond between them emerges, leaving the audience moved with awes filling the room.

Mrs. Pedanski (Sydney Alderman) brings a layer of warmth and optimism to the story, but as the narrative unfolds, she undergoes a transformation. Her gradual loss of patience and gentleness reveals her true feelings about Camp Greenlake, adding depth and complexity to her character.

The campers, including Stanley, Hazel, Armpit (TJ Simmons), Zig Zag (Mallory Keller), Magnet (Sam Doshi O'Neill), and X-Ray (Mason Bruderer), play off of each other with remarkable chemistry. Their consistent interactions and behaviors with one another showcase the depth of their relationships. Their fight sequences are realistic and intense, never breaking character even during conflict. Whether digging their hole or delivering an unexpected ensemble rap after the bows, they keep the audience engaged, providing comedic relief in the face of challenging themes.

The lighting conceptualization by Grace Barsamian is a marvel. The lights paint the stage with warm tones of blues, purples, pinks, yellows, and oranges, showcasing the changing times of day, from night to dawn, morning, day, and dusk. Although there are moments when some cues are slow, the entire tech crew is working swiftly to ensure the seamless progression of the show.

Assistant stage managers (Anna Sandquist, Miwako Miki, Elise Schultz, and Moises Ramirez) play an integral role in teaching the crew aspects of the production, from rigging the fly-rail to cueing actors and prop pieces. Their dedication and expertise contributes to the success of the technical aspects.

In "Holes," Laguna Beach High School's company unearths friendship and emotions with infectious enthusiasm, making it unforgettable.