

Tesoro's "Noises Off" Makes Sardines Funny  
written by Lilly Egley, a junior at Mission Viejo High School

A farcical play-within-a-play, "Noises Off" depicts the eccentric cast of the comedy "Nothing On" as they struggle through the performance process and their personal problems. In the three-act story of the dress rehearsal, backstage chaos, and final showing of "Nothing On," everything hilariously goes downhill.

As "Nothing On" begins to go wrong, Garry Lejeune (Maceo Vadas) comically starts to lose his grasp on reality. Garry's good posture and polite tone in Act One turn into an exhausted tone and feeble steps across the stage in Act Three, creating a humorous contrast. During Act Two, Vadas hilariously gives certain lines from "Nothing On" a double meaning by saying them with an enraged tone, clearly directing the words at an actor backstage.

In a clever portrayal of exhaustion, Tim Allgood (Gage Williams-Whitney) sways to the right when standing and shakes his head quickly to wake himself up as he bustles across the stage. Costumes (Gage Williams-Whitney and Team) demonstrate how Tim is overworked with paint-covered overalls in Act One and one overall strap unbuckled in Act Two.

Even when not speaking, Brooke Ashton (Addy Engelken) stays in character by zoning out or fixing her hair. Brooke's clueless nature and eagerness to perform the show correctly are shown through her pet-like scurries across the stage and her wide-eyed expressions. This persona is maintained in Act Three when Brooke is amusingly the only person on stage doing what was rehearsed, as everyone else has already given up on the show.

Props (Roan Dao and Team) capture the ridiculousness of "Noises Off." From six plates of sardines to an axe to a cactus, each prop plays a unique role in the chaos on stage. A moment that stands out is Garry dropping sardines on Dotty's head, where dish soap is used as sardine oil to increase the humor and impact of the action.

To create a fancy house with numerous doors, Ariana Gomez and Titan Stagecraft impressively constructed a two-story set and added texture with wood grain highlights. During intermission, the Tesoro Running Crew turns this massive set 180 degrees in under nine minutes, exemplifying the efficiency of the crew.

Through comical acting and noteworthy technical elements, Tesoro's "Noises Off" illustrates what "the show must go on" really means, as well as how the performance process can make actors want to literally break someone's leg.