

St. Margaret's "Frankenstein" breaks the stereotypes the world knows  
written by Lea Jacobson, a senior at Laguna Hills High School

Thrashing sounds, flashing lights, the Creature emerges from the darkness. "Frankenstein" follows the journey of the Creature as he learns the power of hatred and the power of love.

Brayden Brisbois as the Creature commands the stage with his intentional physicality and vocal inflection as he straggles like an animal with a hunched back and growling screams. Through this, Brisbois captures the stereotype of Frankenstein's creation but with time envelops the progression of the Creature. Brisbois slowly stands straighter and his words become clearer as he is exposed to what being a human entails. Lynden Kim's (Victor Frankenstein) frantic energy and powerful vocalization, as his shadow and screams are portrayed while he brutally kills his own creation, develop strong characterization and portray the madness behind Frankenstein.

Tessa Maryott as Elizabeth wonderfully captures the essence of love with her engaging line delivery and nuanced acting. Gigi Policicchio as De Lacey has a compassionate persona seen when she offers her milk to the Creature despite being starving herself. Both Maryott and Policicchio epitomize the message of humanity within the story.

Exceptional comedic support is found from the comedic duo of Griffin Illenberger (Ewan) and Annalise Aitken (Rab) as they discuss their love lives and hilariously hesitate to help Frankenstein. Additional standout performances come from Elina Shook (Creature's Love, a dream) as she dances angelically and Joelle Yang (Creature's Love, a creation) as she dances like a broken doll.

Bursting flashes of red accompanied by eerie sound effects and music immediately set the dark tone, all supported by Sophia Kistler's (Stage Manager) flawless calling of the show. The lighting team's use of warm lighting in scenes where the Creature is shown love, such as by De Lacey, effectively contrasts the rest of the production's pale white lighting that represents the cruelty the world and humans can bring.

A heartbeat being simulated through movement, Michelangelo's Creation of Adam being portrayed, Paige Minton's use of intricate yet powerful movement in the opening number is extremely effective in contributing to the mood. With the cast purposely being unaware of the Creature for most of the number, Minton strategically shows the divide between the humans and the Creature.

With remarkable character commitment and the crew's strategic creativity St. Margaret's "Frankenstein" encapsulates the importance of humanity and treating people with kindness and compassion.