

Los Alamitos High School Turns Up The Spotlight with Nonsense: The Mega-Musical
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After an unfortunate botulism outbreak, resulting from Sister Julia, Child of God's tainted soup, eight nuns discover they need to raise money to move their dead Sisters from the convent freezer to a proper burial before a health inspector visitation. They concoct a plan to fundraise by staging a variety show. Irreverent comedy ensues as this divine motley crew attempts to showcase talent for profit with an absurd entertainment scheme.

Perpetual energy, spunk, and rebellious spirit mark Leo Athy's performance of Sister Robert Anne, a Nun unable to repress her aspirations for stardom. As she charges across the stage with a mischievous grin, her agenda is hilariously transparent. Her bright eyes and unruly confidence are paired with witty comebacks and crisp comedic timing to create Sister Robert Anne's streetwise attitude, a surprising trait given her calling to monastic life.

Laila Rain Montana's Sister Mary Amnesia elicits light-hearted laughs as she personifies her moniker. Having been conked on the head by a crucifix, Sister Amnesia struggles to remember her history. Montana employs childlike detachment to demonstrate the Sister's fugue state, prancing playfully with puppets and other props as she smiles brilliantly exuding a sunny but clueless disposition. During her performance of "I Could Have Gone to Nashville," recovery of functional memory strikes Sister Mary Amnesia. Montana transforms from wistfully disoriented to triumphant as she remembers herself as an almost-famous country singer turned cloistered Nun.

Comedic stage duo excellence is delivered by Reverend Mother Mary Regina (Sarah Urquiza) and her second in command Sister Mary Hubert (Ella Cox). Urquiza's stern, take-charge enthusiasm for the spotlight balances Cox's more subdued yet equally competitive persona demonstrating their endearing friendship in wonderfully harmonized "Just a Coupl'a Sisters."

Key to the hilarity of Nonsense is the spectacle of singing and dancing Sisters in traditional Nun habits. Authenticity in this department is achieved by costume designer Kasey Chu who has each Sister carefully attired in conservative black veil, white coif, and long black tunic, symbolic of what the Sisters share: their religious devotion. This juxtaposes their wacky individualities which come to light as each Sister has their spotlight moment during the plot's unfolding.

Soup served up by Sister Julia may trigger a medical emergency, but Nonsense performed by Los Alamitos High School is good for the spirit, Mega-Fun!