

Raindrops and Teardrops Flow at Uni's "The Diviners"  
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The curtains open, and a haunting melody of hope and despair is sung, the quiet hum of a struggling community leading into a poignant tale of healing and sacrifice. In the small, dust-choked town of Zion, Indiana, "The Diviners" follows the story of Buddy Layman, a young boy with a traumatic fear of water yet an uncanny ability to sense it.

Grisha Naganov, as Buddy Layman, beautifully fills the stage with his child-like vulnerability and innocence. He twists and turns slowly, his limbs loosely swinging from side to side as he slightly tilts his head toward the birds in the sky. Naganov's voice is playful yet panicked, and his large eyes fill with profound fear when he senses the upcoming storms.

Patient and collected, Aydean Eskandari stands with a stiff and fragile posture as CC Showers. His calm tone and subtle hand gestures reflect his compassionate demeanor, and he carries a sense of quiet resilience when becoming a moral and emotional anchor for Buddy. Eskandari is witty and composed, yet he interacts sternly with the people of Zion, his voice increasing in tension and his eyes widening when they mention his preaching.

Taylor Niedwick is both rebellious and tender as Jennie Mae Layman. Her soft smile and gentle gaze highlight her unwavering love for her brother, and she moves with smaller, hesitant steps, embodying both the burdens she carries and the hope she holds onto. Niedwick gently expresses her fondness for CC Showers, tucking away her wispy bangs and sneaking subtle glances when he's near.

The Uni Light Crew excellently conveys each scene's emotion and tone, enhancing the storytelling and atmosphere. The flashing, cold blue lights during the heavy storm perfectly contrast with the warmer, yellow tones of the Bible reading. Lighting flawlessly syncs cues with the script to create moments of tension and strength.

Uni's Set and Scenery Crew truly encapsulated the lived-in feel of the Laymen's farmhouse. Made from scrap plywood, it's complete with a showcasing variety of toolboxes, hay bales, and sawhorses. It's filled with strategic details such as space between each flat for fog airflow and a trap door to imitate the digging of a well.

Devastating and sentimental, University High's "The Diviners" magnificently tells the tragic story of friendship, trauma, and the struggle between community beliefs.