

Los Alamitos Kills Monster Of A Show, She Kills Monsters
written by Connor Udhus, a senior at Fullerton Union High School

Throughout the history of American high school education, nerds and geeks have remained a prevalent subculture. The drama department of Los Alamitos High School's production of "She Kills Monsters" pulls together a greatly talented group of geeks to tell the story of Agnes- a teenage girl trying to navigate the unclear reality of who her late, nerdy sister Tilly really was as a person by completing a DnD quest.

Brooke Singleton as Agnes paints a wonderful portrait of a forlorn, sorrowed sister searching for the truth about her sibling through usage of shy persistence in each action; even when discouraged, she perseveres in her quest with a bubbly demeanor and rugged combat skills. Bria Singleton as Tilly, along her side, mirrors Agnes and contrasts her in a genuine way that entralls the audience, pulling away emotionally at times to create a boundary that once again separates the siblings.

Members of the D&D party created a multitude of memorable moments. Mason Potter as Orcus the Demon delivers a hilarious performance utilizing sleazy yet energized physicality, zipping around the stage to fight off evil bosses and spawn magic maps as he crabbily vocalizes his passion for daytime television. Ava Friedman as Lilith's standoffish and uncaring manner through intent vocal dullness illustrate a harsh outer shell, advancing uncomfortable tension between the sisters while simultaneously constructing a sweet dynamic between Lilith and Tilly.

The delightfully designed set of the show served to exemplify the Ohioan 1990's atmosphere while also constructing a fitting backdrop for a show with as beautiful student-direction as it has- the usage of parallels within the set, lighting and blocking all juxtapose the differences between Tilly and Agnes with their siblinghood and deep connection, even posthumously. Colorful lighting enriched by surrounding fog emerging from within the steps of the set itself also creates a dynamic environment perfectly suited for the moments of thrilling combat within the show.

Costuming within the show helped to develop an individuality that complemented each character perfectly, aligning them with outfits realistic to the contrasting worlds of the story. Orcus's costume calls to the likeness of a satyr with his pant legs rolled up to create a hoofed, ungulate leg effect that is amusing to the eye.

Overall, the wonderful Los Alamitos' "She Kills Monsters" surely harnesses sheer and radical geek talent to electrify anyone watching.