

Classic with a twist

Cadre Kerr performs *Romeo and Juliet*

Fog swirls in the background, as Shakespearean characters gather on the stage, act in a new picture.

This year, Cadre Kerr plans on changing up the way that they perform the play “Romeo and Juliet.” The play will be performed at 7 p.m. October 23, 24, 29 and 30 and at 2 p.m. October 31. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.

“The one thing that separates it [Romeo and Juliet] from other Shakespearean pieces, is that it consists of a post-apocalyptic twist,” senior Quincy Robinson said. “This rendition indeed created an intriguing outlook for the audience.”

The “Mad Max” inspiration for the sets and costumes has required a lot of advance preparation for the crew, according to permanent tech head Jesus Pineda.

“This is the most technically advanced play we’ve done,” Pineda said. “We used the most amounts of lights, made two different sets [for the Montague and Capulet families], and we have a lot of new freshmen. This was a hard process but it was a great experience that taught many ideas and created new lineage for the years to come.”

The execution of this type of play shows the determination and effort

represented by the Cadre Kerr members.

“With the direction of [theatre teachers Julie Ryan and Joey Watkins], we’re really telling the story and trying to the play more impactful and emotional, rather than simply original Shakespeare,” Pineda said. “The scenes under this theme will hit you hard.”

The style, setting, and setup for the play have changed the terms of performance for the actors as well.

“Our stage is divided differently this year,” junior chorus actor Rem Aitbouchireb said. “The audience is now on both sides of the stages, pro-

viding more glimpses and angles of the play.”

Through constant work of cast and crew, sophomore Samin Amin believes that the play will turn out as a success.

“Without a doubt, I feel like this play will be outstanding and extraordinary,” Amin said. “Seeing all the dedication, energy, and perseverance put forth by all the members, I feel that this play will certainly pay off. Through continual practice, from acting to costumes, I feel that people are really going to enjoy this play.”

  Nathan Tadesse

Romeo, played by junior Jose Ramos, and Juliet, played by Kathryn Negri, profess their profound love. The play was performed October 23, 29 and 30 at 7 PM and at 2 PM October 31. A performance scheduled for October 24 was moved to after school November 2 after rain cancelled the original date.



Nurse, played by Mariah Menedez, and Juliet weep over the death of cousin Tybalt, questioning her decision with Romeo.



The heads of the two families, Lord Montague (Ola Solabi) and Capulet (Kerean Vu) finally end their dispute after Romeo and Juliet's deaths.



Yazan Abuashour

A Tale to Remember

'Strange Boarders' becomes a schoolwide hit

The lights are dimmed. The crowd is silent. The actors and actresses are ready. The play finally begins with the lights fully glimmering, revealing a beautifully decorated set that resembles the interior of a house. In just a few moments, the audience would witness the many action packed scenes in the latest Cadre Kerr masterpiece—"Strange Boarders."

In the second half of "Strange Boarders," Cordelia is faced with a dilemma: how to hide two bound and gagged bank robbers and a third, dressed like a minister, who has been knocked unconscious, when the neighborhood busybody arrives to confront her about how she is caring for her foster daughters. Meanwhile, a pair of mobsters is searching her property for \$10,000. How does she deal with the intrusion? The solution is simple: gag and tie up the neighbor, too, until the police can arrive and sort everything out.

The January production of "Strange Boarders" was a comedic tale of mischief, mayhem, and money. The play revolves around a stolen

sum. The group of bank robbers sees an ad in a newspaper for a boarding-house and plan to hide the money there. The house is owned and run by Cordelia, a loving adoptive mother of two children named Candy and Gloria. A crazy play of fun, comedy, action, and plenty of surprises surround the search for the money, attempts to keep it, and making sure it stays out of the hands of the wrong people.

Senior Christina Tahtouh, who played Cordelia, found it to be a unique experience. The play took a different approach from many other of Cadre Kerr's plays.

"'Strange Boarders' is different from any show I've ever done because it is my first comedy," Tahtouh said in an interview via text. "I'm so used to always doing serious, dramatic type shows, so this was refreshing. Another exciting thing about this show was the raised stage! We've never done anything like that before."

The crew for the play constructed a stage that was partially elevated from the ground, enlarging the amount of space the cast has for performing and



Captain (Duong Vu) gags bank robber Amity (Rem Aitbouchireb) as Cordelia (Christina Tahtouh) tries to capture the bank robbers who have been hiding in her home.

separating them from the audience.

In addition to the new perspective from the stage, Christina said the production was different because it was her first comedic play. Tahtouh said the play did not have a deep message, as audience members might have expected from a realistic drama.

"All of these characters were super light-hearted and exaggerated. Therefore, the comedy was the focus. If there were a message in this show, I'd say it was about the importance of persistence!"

Tahtouh said performing in front of an audience used to scare her, but the experiences since her first play have overcome those nerves.

"Before my first show, 'Scarlet Letter,' where I played Hester, I was terrified of messing up and embarrassing myself. The whole week leading up to opening night, I wanted to get it over with," she said. "But, over time the nerves turn into adrenaline, and you look forward to the rush of being onstage. Nerves eventually disappear or turn into energy once you realize that the audience is there to enjoy, not [critique]. When you're on stage, you become the character—once you realize that, you don't focus on the 'real world.'"

"Strange Boarders" left a lasting impact on many of the audience members as well as the actors. Freshman Beverly Meija found the play to be quite amusing.

"It was very funny and well put together. It was a good production," Meija happily said. "I'll be coming to watch more of the plays because a lot of my friends are in them. And they're really good."



Boarding house owner Cordelia (Christina Tahtouh) prepares to knock out mobster Benny Boston (Kerean Vu) as nosy neighbor Myrtle (Mariah Menendez) looks on. The play revolved around efforts to hide and find ten thousand dollars stolen from a bank.

✍ Ajay Nair
Abenether Yonas
📷 Courtesy Joey Watkins