

IT IS ALL IN THE DELIVERY

PLAY ADDRESSES
SERIOUS THEMES
FOR ACTORS,
AUDIENCES

The most dramatic lines of the show rolled off his tongue while he practiced in the dressing room. He paced back and forth in his beige pants and tucked-in white shirt as he fixed his wide glasses to rest comfortably on his nose. The importance of playing Atticus Finch carried a weight that urged him to perform well. Senior Michael Gonzalez looked in the mirror, not to see himself, but to see a serious man who should not be taken lightly.

The cast of "To Kill a Mockingbird" spent six weeks preparing for opening night that took place Oct. 4 and ran for three nights.

"It's a powerful play," sophomore Nikiya Mellon said. "People leave crying, laughing and, sometimes, they leave silent."

In addition to the cast learning all of their lines, tech theatre classes spent six weeks building the set they started in June. Meanwhile, student director junior Hannah Hightshoe worked on the technicalities of producing Harper Lee's book, "To Kill a Mockingbird" as a play.

"I think the play showed the important parts of the story," Hightshoe said. "The play

left out a few details for the sake of keeping it a reasonable length, but for the most part it was the same."

To involve students outside of theatre in the play, theatre teacher Mrs. Renee Norris created an essay contest over the injustices of the world. The winner, senior Jacob Peterson, received a Chili's gift card and free entry into the show.

"My girlfriend was in the production, and I wanted to write the essay for her so I can be more involved with the play," Peterson said. "I also felt strongly about the topic. I never read the book, but it was a way for me to get my feelings out about injustice."

Furthermore, the play portrayed a significant period of the shaping of America. Audience members such as junior Nathaniel Hill felt especially moved by Gonzalez's concluding speech.

"It makes me think of what prejudices I inflict on others," Hill said. "It also makes me think, would I have gone along with the populace or been one of the people who stood up against the rest of the jury?" *Story by Hannah Gonzalez, D'Eric Kicinski and Alesha Mrema*