



Lord of the Flies - Tuscarora High School

What do savage kids, a conch shell, and an abandoned island all have in common? They were all a part of the fantastic Lord of the Flies, shown at Tuscarora High School. This show, with Ralph, Jack, and the rest, was entertaining from beginning to end, and the emotional turmoil made the show's theme harrowingly clear; people will do anything for power.

The Lord of the Flies, written by William Golding and adapted by Nigel Williams, is about a group of British teenagers stranded on an island. The Royal Shakespeare Company first performed the play in 1996, then toured around the UK in 2015 until finally reaching Tuscarora High School. The story focuses on the relationship between Jack and Ralph, who want power on the island. When Ralph becomes the democratic chief of the island, Jack makes it his mission to undermine Ralph's authority. The play focuses on what it takes to turn humans savage and how social pressure can make people commit horrible acts.

The ensemble of Jack's Hunters anchored the play. Every actor in this group went above and beyond, from acting and choreography to accents, making the play incredibly realistic. No actor shied away from the challenge of becoming a savage, and chanting "Kill the Pig, Spill its Blood" was chilling to hear. Maurice, played by Alex Jones, was especially chilling, as the change from lovable goofball to a scared and reluctant soldier was a thought-provoking performance.

The play's two leads were Ralph, played by Amanda Anthony, and Jack, played by Claudia Hunn. Amanda Anthony's performance of Ralph was awe-inspiring. Amanda understood her part, as her acting choices were realistic and heart-wrenching. Amanda shined in emotional scenes, as her final scream was so blood-curdling that it seemed like Ralph and Amanda were the same people. Claudia Hunn, as Jack, was the perfect antagonist for this play. Throughout the play, it was hard to tell that Claudia Hunn was an actor. The performance of her movement, her accent, and her lines was incredibly natural, pulling you in and never letting you go. The first successful hunt was my favorite scene from Claudia, as the way Jack started to turn other people savage was gripping and unsettling.

Some other great performances were Queen Kincaide playing Simon and Katie and Elena Brunton playing the twins Sam and Eric. Queen Kincaide's descent into madness as Simon was eerie, setting a tone for the rest of the show. Katie and Elena performed

their part of Sam and Eric exceptionally. They brought much-needed comedic relief to the beginning of the show while still managing to play their role seriously. Their acting contributed to the idea of everyone in the show being forced to accept their new situation by turning crazy or being forced into submission.

While the actors had incredible performances, one of the best parts of the show was their Tech. The set was fantastic, containing multiple ramps stacked on each other, allowing various scenes to play out at once, and providing valuable tools for forest scenes. The makeup and hair were great. I especially loved how the costumes showed each character's descent into madness. An example is Jack's costumes; he starts in a school uniform, and when he goes mad with power, he wears torn white rags.

This show's symbolism made this show a must-watch. Tuscarora packed a lot into the show's run time, from the conch shell representing power to parallels with different political systems. This show could have missed many of these nuances. Tuscarora showed many details in easy-to-understand ways, making Lord of the Flies a delight to watch.

-Ethan King