



## **The Crucible – Potomac Falls High School**

Someone get Reverend John Hale because Potomac Falls High School must have used witchcraft in their impressive production of *The Crucible*.

*The Crucible*, first performed in 1953, is a dramatic play based on the Salem Witch Trials. One late night, Reverend Samuel Parris finds a group of girls performing a demonic ritual. He then discovers his daughter ill, which sends the town into a frenzy. After the town brings in Reverend John Hale, witchcraft is suspected, and things get messy. Can John Proctor save his wife and town, or will witchcraft be stamped out of Salem for good?

Playing John Proctor, Owen Cook gave everything he had onstage, acting with the extreme intensity needed for his explosive role. During crucial scenes, he fought as if John Proctor's responsibilities were his own, especially when fighting for his wife, Elizabeth. Lauren Ignazzitto, who played Elizabeth Proctor, was authentic to her character throughout the play's runtime. Her versatility allowed her to deliver lines in a heart-wrenching fashion. The couple's chemistry was remarkable as they grew from cold and distant partners to a caring and trustworthy duo.

Avery Medina did an excellent job in the role of Abigail Williams. She was not only impressive while in the spotlight, but her fantastic character choices extended to when she was in the background. She always looked aware during scenes, having meaningful reactions to everything happening onstage. Avery and her band of Dancing Girls, played by Katie Gross, Lina Minkara, Lauren Reese Quick, Eliana Safarian, and Emma Simansiki, all did a convincing job acting out being tortured by the devil. Ayyoob Saeed, playing Reverend John Hale, deserves equal praise for his confidence and exceptional acting on stage. Ayyoob walked and talked like he had lived his entire life on this set, never missing a beat and never dropping character.

The show's set was elegant and highly effective. Three ominous wooden walls of various lengths stood in a triangle formation. The stage crew could move these walls to create a wider scene, morphing into numerous locations and forming an immaculate backdrop. The lighting crew used LEDs behind the wooden background to create unsettling effects during scene transitions. Shapes added to the lights, called gobos, represented a forest or depicted sunlight by casting different images onto the set. These lighting effects were worthwhile, proving immersive and engaging. Finally, all the actors looked their part, thanks to the makeup and costume crew. The costumes fit the period

down to the pulled-up socks and buckled shoes. The makeup crew excelled at making realistic bruises and cuts, creating visible, lifelike effects.

Potomac Falls High School nailed their performance of *The Crucible* through hard work and dedication from everyone included in their production. Engaging and thrilling throughout, *The Crucible* was a joy to watch. Even Abigail would agree that *The Crucible* was not with the devil.

-Ethan King