She Kills Monsters

Virtual Realms

By: Qui Nguyen

NCS 7th & 8th Grade
STA Form I & Form II

Friday, December 11 @ 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 12 @ 7:30 PM

Virtual Theater Production 2020

Artwork by: Anne Liberman
Thank you so much for joining us for the NCS/STA Middle School virtual production of She Kills Monsters! The cast, crew and production team have been working very hard on this show, and we hope you enjoy it.

I love this story. It’s a cool combination of reality and fantasy – an epic adventure which works on many levels and is comedic and at times serious. Adapted to be online, the play works nicely in this format due to its visual elements (like the shadow puppets) and the fact that the characters can converse over Zoom. The ‘epic’ part of the adventure brought with it a host of exciting challenges to figure out – how do we create several strange creatures, choreograph fight sequences remotely, render multiple fantastical backgrounds (most needing two perspectives!), show explosions and magic? And, oh yeah, we’ll need a fire-breathing dragon! It was fun to wrestle with these moments, which inevitability pushed all us to grow and expand what we originally thought we were capable of doing.

A note about the process: This show was rehearsed and filmed entirely over Zoom and every day was an epic adventure. We constantly dealt with technology issues, like wifi not working (not just lagging or glitching, but actors having trouble joining online up until the very last day of rehearsal), devices running out of battery, ear buds popping out, and even the occasional ring light assault on an unexpecting actor. Once we started filming, green screens needed to be constantly recalibrated, props needed to be held in front of the actor or they would disappear, and the number of unexpected noises – phones ringing, family members talking, dogs barking, dinner plates rattling, and old fans ca-lunking – was surprising! It seemed like just when the actors found that exact spot to stand between their camera and screen so as not to throw a dark shadow behind them – that’s when a curious little sibling would decide to visit. Throughout these challenges, the cast remained positive, flexible, admirably unflappable, and truly resilient! I was greatly impressed with their work ethic and support for each other. I’m incredibly proud of them. It was such a joy to come together — and with the support of the immensely talented design team — create something meaningful as a group.

Enjoy the show!
THE CAST

Jacob Allen. ....................... Narrator/Tiamat
Daniela Barros. ............... Special Effects Team
Thomas Bean. ................. Chuck Biggs
Bodhi Bhalla-Ladd .......... Narrator/Tiamat
Lilli Bui. ......................... Evil Tina
William Cantrell. .......... Steve
Jay Chadwick. ............ Special Effects Team
Ellie Denney. ................. Agnes
Sophia Dove. ................ Evil Gabbi
Olivia Gavin. ................ Narrator/Tiamat
Mishah Hamid ............... Special Effects Team
Duchess Jackson. ........ Farrah the Fairy
Georgia Jackson. ........ Special Effects Team
Merit Johnson. ............... Kaliope
Isabel Knizek. ............... Vera
Yuhan Li. ....................... Narrator/Tiamat
Van Lurton. ................... Miles
Julia Mumford ............... Narrator/Tiamat
Cecily Reed. ................. Narrator/Tiamat
Emelina Scott. ............. Special Effects Team
Alex Suh. ..................... The Beholder
Maddy Waldman. .......... Lilith
Olivia Wei. .................... Tilly
Humphrey Wolfe. .......... Special Effects Team
Laszlo Wolfe. ............... Orcus
Zijing Wu ..................... Special Effects Team
I want to start off by thanking the Ah-MAZ-ing cast for joining me on this epic adventure! Choosing to do theater after a long day of rigorous academics is respectable during normal times. Now add doing theater “virtually,” and “in the middle of a global pandemic” to that equation, and it makes your accomplishment even more impressive! I am truly grateful for your incredible dedication, flexibility, maturity, and overall commitment to this process. Thank you for the laughs, for all the fun, and for taking care of each other during these crazy times.

I’m also filled with gratitude for all the adults involved — the incredibly supportive administration, the encouraging middle school faculty, and the parents who may have inadvertently gained a “sneak peek” into the rehearsal process from the students’ “home studios.” Furthermore, I am completely blown away by the immensely talented theater faculty who continually put their heart and soul into everything they do, elevating this production with their beautiful art and technical wizardry.