

Students weigh
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COMICS!

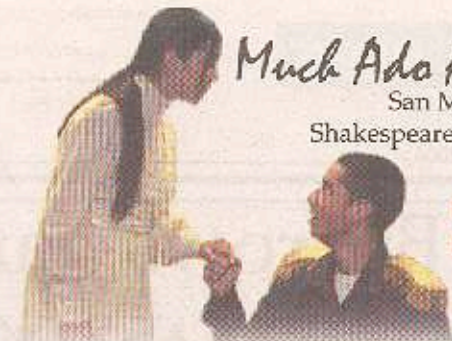
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Much Ado About

San Marcos' latest
Shakespeare production

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San Marcos High School

Kinaja Page

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- From the school newspaper
- This article is about a population that felt "invisible" before the sheltered productions came along.

"Much Ado About Nothing" storms San Marcos

KATELYN SULLIVAN
Entertainment Editor

Special Education and English Learning Development students of San Marcos performed the play Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." The performance took place in early December and was an amazing sensation.

The main plot of "Much Ado About Nothing" revolves around the relationship of two young lovers, but also manages to focus on the battle of the sexes between characters, Beatrice and Benedick. "It's a play about love and the obstacles that are sometimes thrown in our way before we can unite with the girl or boy of our dreams," said director Mr. Levien.

Most of the students involved in the play are new to English as well as new to acting. A few students that acted in the play are, seniors Erick Anderson acting as Benedick, Brian Ruiz as Dogberry Gustavo Sandoval as Don Pedro, junior Cindy Reyna as Beatrice, sophomores Karla Ramirez as Hero and Diego Vasquez as Claudio, along with the rest of Mr. Levien's class.

"Mr. Levien knows what he's doing and does a wonderful job. I hope to learn a lot more from him," says Anderson.

The students and teachers were dedicated to this production. Every day during fourth period the students prepared for their performance. Mr. Levien has been the backbone of this show since it began. "I wanted to give English learners and Special Ed students equal access to the performing arts curriculum and a chance to work with a gatekeeper author," he said.

"I think that the hardest part about the play is to memorize all the lines. Sometimes I'm shy so that makes it even harder," shared Sandoval.

The tradition of this play has been an amazing success

in the past, and was no disappointment this year. "It's a great way for students to grow in their language skills and they also make extraordinary gains in terms of human development," said Mr. Levien.

The play has gotten recognition previous years from various organizations throughout the community. "UCSB grad students have been filming and writing about our process each year; and now the Carnegie Foundation has expressed interest in our work as well," said Mr. Levien.

This play has proven to help the students to improve their English speaking, as well as expose them to a new curriculum. "Much Ado About Nothing" has been no different.

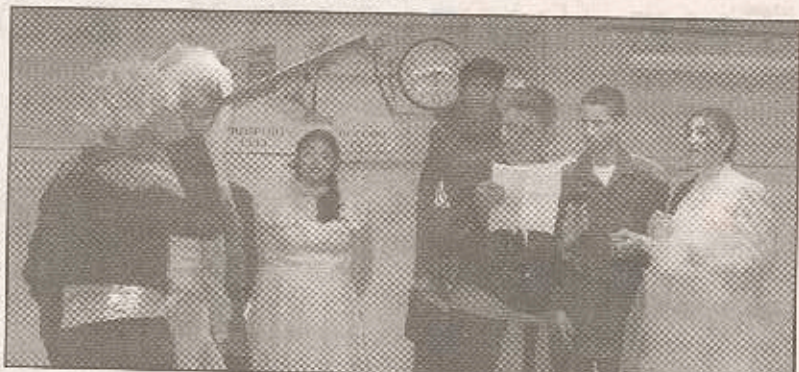


Photo by Natalie Melton

The students of Mr. Levien's class performed Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" earlier this month.