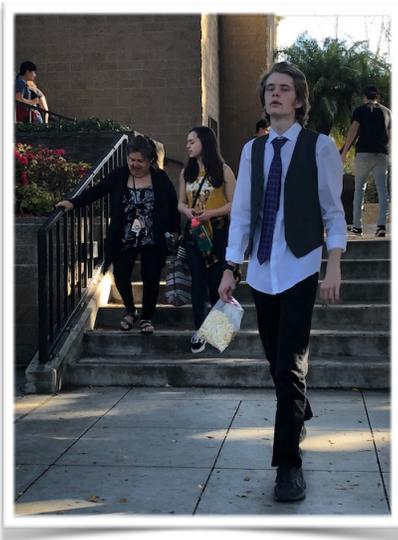




SCVi Wins Again!

Scvi IB Theatre learners return triumphant for a third successive year

SCVi promotes excellence in theatre with the IB Theatre Program. Pictured Below: Joseph Trpcic looking visibly relieved after his monologue presentation.



A team of 8 learners made what is becoming an annual pilgrimage down to Orange County to take part in Chapman University's Henry Kemp-Blair Shakespeare Festival.

The festival takes place in February every year and has done so for 45 years. This year 24 high schools from across California including specialized arts schools like LA School for the Arts and San Francisco's Marin School for the Arts competed in the convivial atmosphere of the Chapman University Theatre department. Chapman has a long standing tradition of excellence in the arts that is recognized nationally and 45 years ago, a beloved professor of their faculty Henry Kemp-Blair decided to organize a festival to celebrate all that is beautiful about the Bard and it's been going strong ever since. SCVi has been attending the festival since 2018 and has won recognition and awards every year and this year was no exception.

Our team this year consisted of these 8 learners:

Joseph Trpcic, Samantha Pearce, Jakhongir Makhmudov,

Anabella Cario, Naya Goodman, Braeden Senkle

Jonathan Horowitz and Micah Dichoso.



All of the ensemble performed in a scene from *Romeo and Juliet* and two learners Samantha Pearce and Joseph Trpcic, also represented the school by performing monologues.

Part of the festival involves taking part in workshops with Chapman professors and alumni and our learners got to experience using their voices and bodies to represent the supernatural characters in Shakespeare's works.

Our monologues were performed on the first day with both learners bringing strong performances. Joseph played Benedict from *Much Ado About Nothing*, delivering his character with aplomb and to much applause. Samantha delivered a heart-wrenching monologue from the character of Hermione in *A Winter's Tale* that captivated the audience. On day two we moved to our selected scene. We were the last group to perform and we energized and invigorated the audience with a robust and lively performance of Act one, scene one of *Romeo and Juliet*. This famous initial scene





Samantha Pearce with Chapman Professor and Shakespeare Scholar Tom Bradac.

sets the pace and context for what is to come. Part of the festival is bringing relevance to the Bard's works for our generation. Our learners placed the scene in the modern era with the Capulets and the Montagues as politically polarized rivals using sloganeering and social media to manipulate the other side. It obviously struck a chord with the capacity crowd in the auditorium as they cheered, laughed and gasped with gusto at our player's performances. Our fight scene made people squeal with delight and surprise in equal measure and the second part of the scene featuring Jonathan Horowitz playing the part of the nurse opposite a stern and implacable Lady Capulet played by Anabella Cario had the audience rolling in the aisles. The theatre department could not have been more proud of our team- every member in that scene acted with 100% commitment to excellence.

In what was an exciting and exacting competitive environment, I am happy to report that Samantha Pearce impressed the judges to pick up a coveted award for excellence in her monologue. Our group scene missed getting award recognition from the judges but was an obvious winner with the audience and our learners enjoyed basking in the many enthusiastic congratulations that came their way from their peers from other schools.

