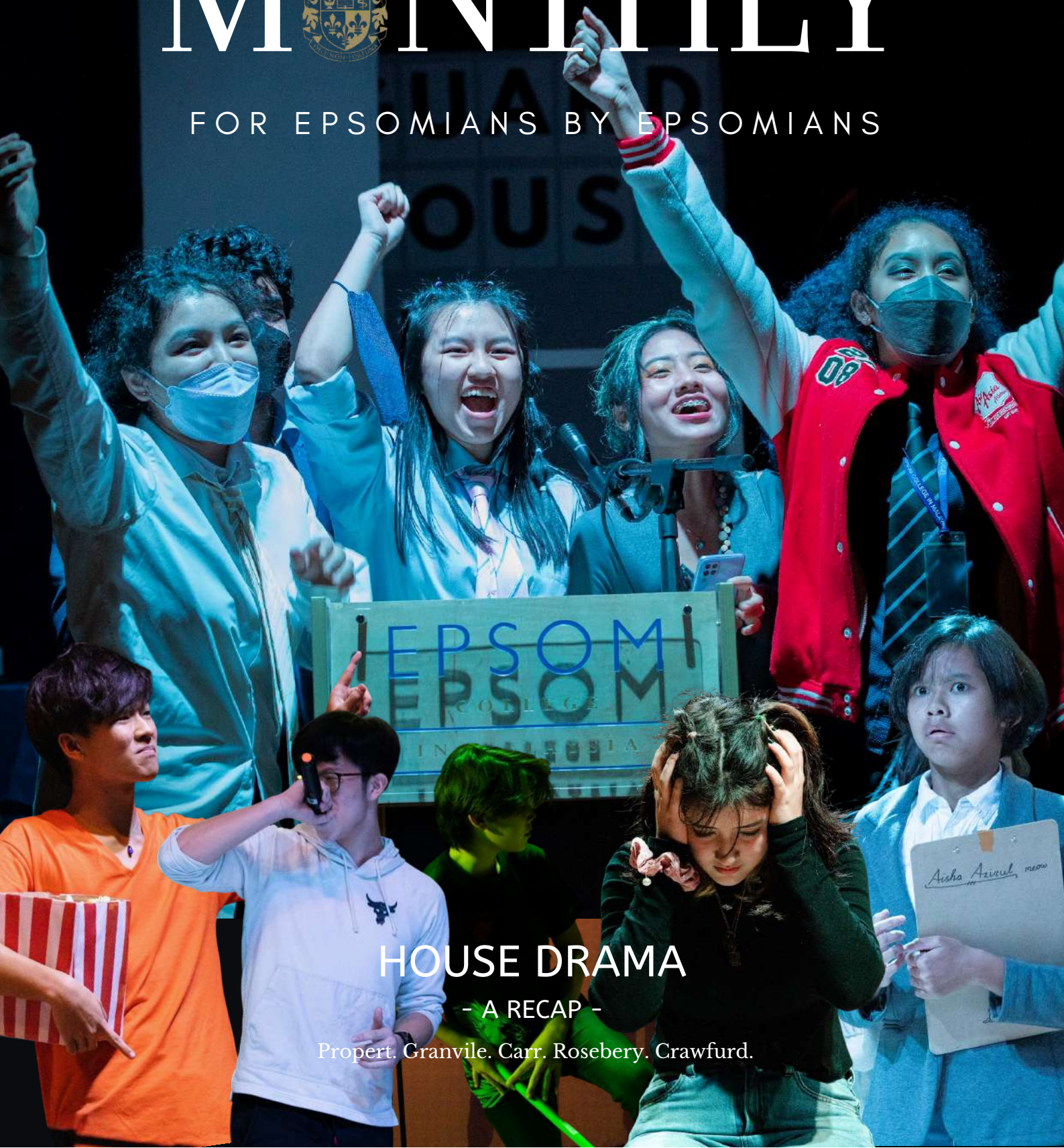


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EPSOM MONTHLY



FOR EPSOMIANS BY EPSOMIANS



HOUSE DRAMA

- A RECAP -

Propert. Granville. Carr. Rosebery. Crawford.

Talented Actors of Carr House Present:

WHAT LIES BENEATH THE CARRSTLE?



"WHAT LOOKS LIKE SALT
CAN BE SUGAR!"



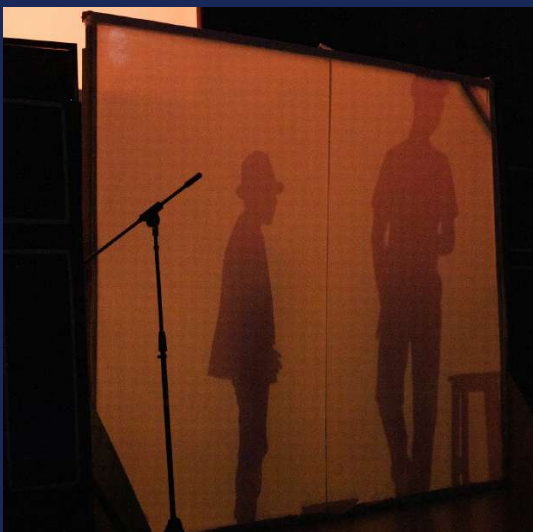
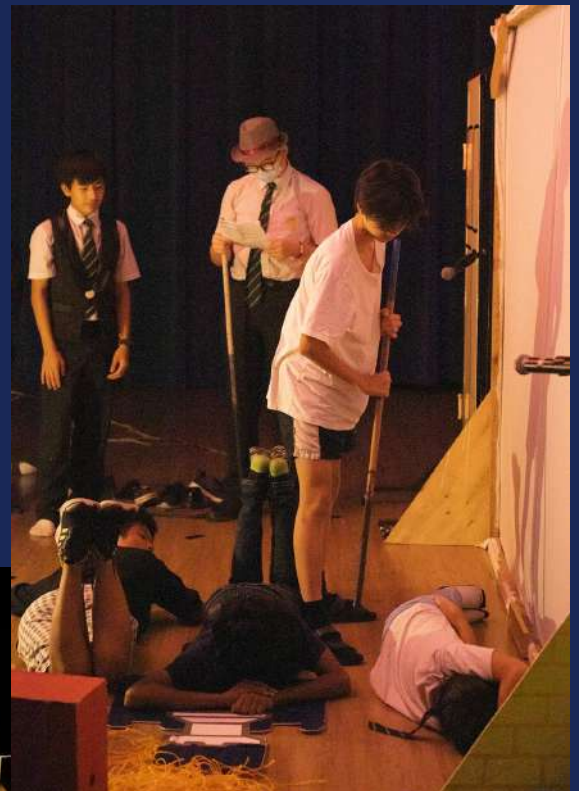
WATCH ON 29/4 DURING
HOUSE DRAMA



CAST LIST

Yusi Cheng
Qaid Choundhury
Caleb Garnett
Jun Hong Goh
Andy YiChen Hu
Nexus Khoo
Dokyun Lee
Pei Hu Li

Yoritaka Okada
Leo Qu
Rayyan Iman Reme
Ethan Sankey
Umair Iskandar Shahril Nizam
Gerard Takamiya
Ahthithyan Vickneswaran
Kohaku Yoshida



MESSAGE FROM THEIR HOUSEPARENT

The things I was told and believed about Carr House before becoming part of the Carr House team, have mostly all been proven untrue.

The well known quote, “Do not judge a book by its cover”, comes to mind when I remember what I thought when I was an outsider to Carr House compared to what I know about the house now as an insider.

When the theme “What Lies Beneath” was presented, I immediately jumped at the opportunity to show others what Carr really is rather than how it is so often perceived from the outside.

The numerous shoes that await one on the patio of Carr, the noodle snacks and the many devices are a few of the things Carr boys are known for and often in a negative light, when all of these are just a reflection of the young boys in the house being young boys and doing what young boys do.

I used the House Drama Competition as an opportunity for the boys to explore and experience a very different theatre genre, that of shadow theatre. They have seen it performed on social media but now they got to experience how it works and how powerful it can be. It was so lovely to see them rise to this challenge and create some wonderfully creative moments for their piece.

I am very proud of what the boys achieved and enjoyed every single one of their contributions to this piece.

I hope all came to realize the amazing, vibrant and loving place Carr House really is.

Ms. Jennifer Elaine Garnett
Housemistress of Carr House

EXPERIENCE FROM STUDENT IN HOUSE

To be able to work with that many of my peers as also great learning experience. Our house then came great as a result. I would like to share some of my experiences with in-house drama as I'm sure you would have a great laugh at all of them.

Mrs Garnett said that she loved working with the cast and helping them to experience a new genre, that of shadow theater. She said it took the boys a while to get into the concept but when they did, they had lovely ideas.

For me, I found it an extremely interesting experience. I learned how to work with a large group of people with a common goal. It took a fairly long time to work with new items and ideas. There were many stages in developing our play, such as the idea, input, props and behind the scenes (pun intended) along with the execution of the play. The idea was created by our housemaster, conveniently a drama teacher. She had created the play 'What lies beneath the carrstle.' For the input, it was our turn - for the games part, we chose Mario, the backgrounds of many scenes were also our ideas including different props and stunts such as the ramen noodles. Props were a large part of our scenes too, they were extremely fun to use and experiment with, especially when you were behind the screen and it played out differently. Experimenting was a large part of our props organization. Behind the scenes was a fun part to explore, things didn't showcase the same behind and in front of the screen, details were left out. This happened many times. But we still went over it. One example was the mushroom in the Mario scene, it didn't look right at first but then we tweaked it to make it look better. Execution, this comprised of all the things that had been mentioned above, but one particular thing went wrong for me. During our chopstick fighting scene, while I was swinging the stick, it broke in half and flew off the stage. There was a fair amount of panic that went through me. And every single time we finished rehearsing, we had to clean the many props we had off the stage, which caused many to go missing or break. For different scenes, we would always brainstorm ideas to add to the scene, and the wild ideas that came up were extremely fun to work with.

Even though it could be quite hectic sometimes, it was definitely a very precious experience for me.

Nexus Khoo

Cast from Carr House

TIMELESS TREASURES



LIFE'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

UTILISE IT. SHARE IT. CHERISH IT



PRESENTED BY: GRANVILLE HOUSE

DIRECTED BY: PAUL, BEN, JEFF



MAIN CAST LIST

Max Wong
Wonwoo Choi
Wafi Badrul Hisham
Jerry Foo
Arman Miqhail
Yves Carden-Brown
Iain Lim

Dhivyasheshan
Shotaro Kamimura
Kim JaeWon
Tengku Adreez
Imran Lok Jordan
Ashton Li Yang



EXPERIENCE FROM STUDENT IN HOUSE

Heyyy Epsomians, I'll be sharing my experience as being the head scriptwriter for Granville's house drama performance. Firstly, I'd like to thank all my fellow Granvillians, especially the directing team and the main cast, as well as everyone else for their tireless hours spent on this project as it wasn't easy for all of us.

I worked alongside Hitesh, who contributed his ideas into the script. Besides, I also kept in touch with the directing team, who gave me deadlines and numerous amendments that made the play flow easily and smoothly. Being a scriptwriter was no easy task as I had no prior knowledge about scriptwriting, however due to my determination to contribute to the house, I somehow managed to find my way around it after a while. Throughout the whole process, I received a lot of ideas and constructive criticism since I constantly approached the directing team to get feedback from them. Apart from that, I was present for almost all the rehearsals even though I had tests and work to do, not to mention the finals that crept around the corner.

The play was focused on the theme of friendship, where two students who accidentally time travelled, coming across obstacles and challenges that slowly build their friendship among one another. There were a total of five scenes, which were approximately three minutes long each. At first, ideas were thrown all over the place as we had trouble deciding on a specific theme, which made things even harder. It took around a week to finalize everything and come to a conclusion of the first three scenes. After that, I began forming the script, starting with scene one. I spent the most time on this scene since I had to introduce the main characters to the audience, such as their personalities and behavior. Scenes three, four and five were the climax, and it was also difficult for me as there were many different things happening. Each scene was unique from one another which was the French Revolution, live concert and dystopian future. I enjoyed working on the dystopian future the most since it was the most thrilling. I myself had a part to play in scene one, however it lasted no more than thirty seconds. The final bits of scene six were completed last minute, however Max managed to play this part pretty well making it look good. Scene six also had many changes since we were not able to come to a final conclusion at the start, making changes as the days went on. There were also other problems such as the cast who dropped out at the last minute and the organization of certain things, which made it difficult for me. We never finalized the scripts, as there were things constantly being changed at some point throughout the process.

One of the good things I have learnt from this experience is to have patience and dedication, as well as cooperation and teamwork. I have also learnt that things do not always go as planned and there will always be another way. I enjoyed working alongside my friends in this project besides getting the chance to get closer to some of my juniors and sixth formers whom I rarely talked to. The whole process was not easy, but I would definitely do it again if I could.

Muhammad Wafi Badrul Hisham

Main script writer for Granville House

PLAY SYNOPSIS

Uncle Hiro is cooking his popcorn as we can see the brief lives of the popcorn as we can see what lies beneath.

MAIN CAST LIST

Uncle Hiro : Hirotosugu Takami

Stalin : Christopher Lai

Popcorns : Mike, Aloysius, Hon Shenn, Everest,
Yusuf, Kayden, Reo, Kheshan, Yusuf, Garrison



MESSAGE FROM THEIR HOUSEPARENT

On the 29th of March Propert took to the stage to present their interpretation of the Interhouse Drama Competition theme - What Lies Beneath.

The House decided that we would explore the idea of popcorn in a pan and make everyone become popcorn kernels while weaving a story around a popular Malaysian comedian, Nigel Ng. Mr Ng is better known for his fictional character Uncle Roger who became famous for scolding famous celebrities on Youtube about their Asian cuisine cooking habits. In Propert's case, we had Uncle Hiro, Hiro in Year 13 to us all!

Uncle Hiro introduced us to what was happening 'Beneath the pot lid' as he was giving us his thoughts on being at Epsom. Through his funny jokes and sarcasm, we were able to establish that there were not many popcorn sellers in the neighbourhood and so Uncle Hiro would set up shop. The popcorn kernels however had other plans and we were able to see what they got up to too!

Our popcorn kernels were a mix of some very energetic and silly dancers who took to the dance floor because the 'oil' was getting hotter - enter the Hotsteppers! Led by Mike and Hon Shenn (Y13 & 12 respectively). After the dance, the Uncle Hiro montage continued with his questioning the audience about life at Epsom and about how popcorn would make sense as an item to sell in Mercato.

In a nod to what was happening in Ukraine, our boys created a sketch where we had Vladimir 'Pop' Putin, played by Chris (Y13), explaining his futile but fervent ideas of the hostile take over of the popcorn pan, all the while rapping to the familiar tune of the Backstreet Boys!

Our final sketch came from Everest (Y10) who donned a white feather boa and created a sombre, sultry mood as the popcorn kernels had now expanded in size and were really ready to POP! The 'Pop' Icon, Shirley Bassey, number featured a lot of passion and energy and towards the end, the kernels couldn't take it anymore so popped their way out of the pan in a crescendo at the end of the song.

Not surprising Uncle Hiro had been lost in his daydream while this was all happening and left the pan on to burn some of the popcorn kernels. Our burnt kernels (through their own volition) then graced the stage in a plume of smoke to finish off with the must say line: 'I laugh in the face of danger!' Thank you to Jaydn (Y10), Jai, Afiq and Husen (Y12) who lead this final hurrah!

Special thanks to all the boys who took part. In addition to those mentioned already, Kayden, Reo, Kheshan and Yusuf in Year 10, Garrison (Y12) and Aloysius (Y13) should be congratulated as top of the pops (excuse the pun). Congratulations to Youngmok (Y11) for the technical support.

Propert thanks Mr Schoeman and Mr Pye for their support and time in allowing the ideas to develop and pop!

Mr. Ian Schoeman
Housemaster of Propert House

EXPERIENCE FROM STUDENT IN HOUSE

Good morning, afternoon or evening to you. My name is Everest from Propert house. Last term, our school held one of the most significant inter-house competitions — The Inter-house Drama Competition. As a part of the performance team of Propert, I can guarantee that we have put in a tremendous amount of hard work into the play. This year, the theme was based on the quote “What Lies Beneath...” Quite an open theme, if you ask me, but there was more as multiple guidelines were also put in place such as; a box of popcorn to be present in the scenes, and the line “I laugh in the face of danger” used. As it was such an open theme, we came up with many ideas that met the mentioned guidelines. After much deliberation we finally came up with the title as to “What lies below Uncle Hiro’s wok cover”. We wanted this to have a comedic and innovative approach which was a great way to start the Propert team off!

It took around 4 weeks for the boys and me to fully prepare the play. We decided to add in the elements of a musical and comedy since it's easy to understand and a comedy would be memorable to the audience. In those few weeks, the boys did around 20 nights of rehearsals and 12 run-throughs of the play. Through practising the dance moves as a team repeatedly every night, I managed to witness the dedication and laughter that the boys expressed. Through the 4 weeks, we’ve discussed and found many solutions to problems as we came across them. Time flies like arrows, fruit flies like bananas (a joke), that’s what I believe in. Within a blink of an eye, it was counting down to 4 days, 3 days, 2 days, 1 day...and then, the final “run-through”!

On the day of the competition, everyone was nervous, not only us as we could see it from the other houses as well! One after the other we applauded and watched the plays that the other houses created and before we knew it, it was our turn to head backstage. That was the time when everyone panicked. But after reassuring ourselves we stepped onto the stage with confidence. We know we have prepared our best and hit our bullseye and so we put on the brightest smile for the audience. We knew we are the stars of that night, so we stood under the spotlight with pride. We sang, danced, acted, “popped”, and the play finished just as fast as light. When announcing the final ranking of the competition, all of us, our mates, our teachers, and ourselves were very excited as we were waiting for the moment to come.

We sadly didn’t receive the trophy for first place, but we’re still tremendously proud and happy we came second. We congratulated the girls from Rosebery with cheers as they stepped onto the stage for the trophy and bowed like queens and princesses. But we, the boys were all rewarded with a medal each, called — growth and experience.

Everest Liu KunLun
Cast from Propert House



PLAY SYNOPSIS

Satan's new assistant arrives in the seven levels of hell but gets lost. She goes down the elevator and meets deadly sins such as sloth, lust, greed and pride. As she talks with them however she learns that Satan is not a very good boss— basically everyone hates her. So when they do finally arrive in his lair they all band together and fight her. How? With a rap battle of course!

They “defeat her” as she admits she was in the wrong. Everyone decides to go on holiday. However, this is where the plot twist happens! As Satan is thinking about what she could do, the assistant appears behind her and literally and figuratively stabs her in the back. The play ends with the assistant sitting on Satan's throne as the lights fade to black.

CAST LIST

- Satan's assistant : Aisha
- Satan : Kaith
- Lust : Maya
- Sloth : Yi En
- Pride : Julia
- Greed : Elie
- HR : Nadirah



MESSAGE FROM THEIR HOUSEPARENT

For the Inter-House Drama competition. Aisha and her team did us very proud with their amazing rendition of the 'Inferno of the Bloody Crow'. I watched with pride as the whole play came together from scratch, starting from the scriptwriting, to the auditioning of the actors and dancers, to memorising of the lines, to learning to project their voices, facial expressions and hand gestures, remembering to face the audience at all times, etc. I still remember with fondness how one of the younger members of the House bravely came forward to audition for one of the roles but broke into a full panic attack only to then courageously pick herself up and calm herself down sufficiently to not only win the role but also to successfully act out her part with passion and determination on the night of the competition. These little victories would have a lasting impact on the lives of these girls. Although we did not lift the winning trophy at the end, the girls did secure the Best Programme prize, designed by Maya, and the Best Junior Actor prize, won by our very own Aisha. A big thank you also go to Shan Nie, Terry and Eunyuu for making sure the lights and audio were executed smoothly throughout the performance. Another memorable night for the House indeed! The skill sets and quality of skills these girls would have acquired through the House Drama are, without doubt, invaluable. I cannot express how proud I am of all involved in the House Drama.

Ms. Denu Sankey

Housemistress of Crawford House

EXPERIENCE FROM STUDENT IN HOUSE

March 29th. Crawfurd along with the other houses were ready – ready to perform.

House drama is an inter-house competition between houses in Epsom international school. The production was set to be in February, after the half term break but then, tragedy struck. There was a covid outbreak.

During the holidays the writers in the Crawfurd house, Aisha, Maya, Yi en, Nadirah and many more worked tirelessly to complete the script. At this point many of the other houses had not started even thinking about their play. As Crawfurd is a junior house, the writers wanted to give as much time for the cast to practice so everyday we worked 2-3 hours on the script.

Finally as the one week break came to a close, the first draft of the script was finished and casting was ready to be done.

Many Crawfurdians were excited to participate by either acting or doing backstage work. Almost the entire house (70 people!) participated. It was really a group effort! The play was named "The inferno of the bloody crow".

Fast forward to the day of the performance, Crawfurd was set to perform right after the break – giving us extra time to set up. Almost everyone had butterflies but all in all, everyone did great!

It was an electric performance.

Everyone gave their best whether they were on stage or getting ready to remove props or even stuck in a tiny room controlling the lighting and sound. No matter the outcome in the end, everyone was proud of everyone who had contributed.

We had spent such a long time rehearsing, revising, panicking– but I had never had so much fun. Everyone grew three times closer in those weeks leading up to house drama and we've made friends with people from age groups that we may have never even talked to before.

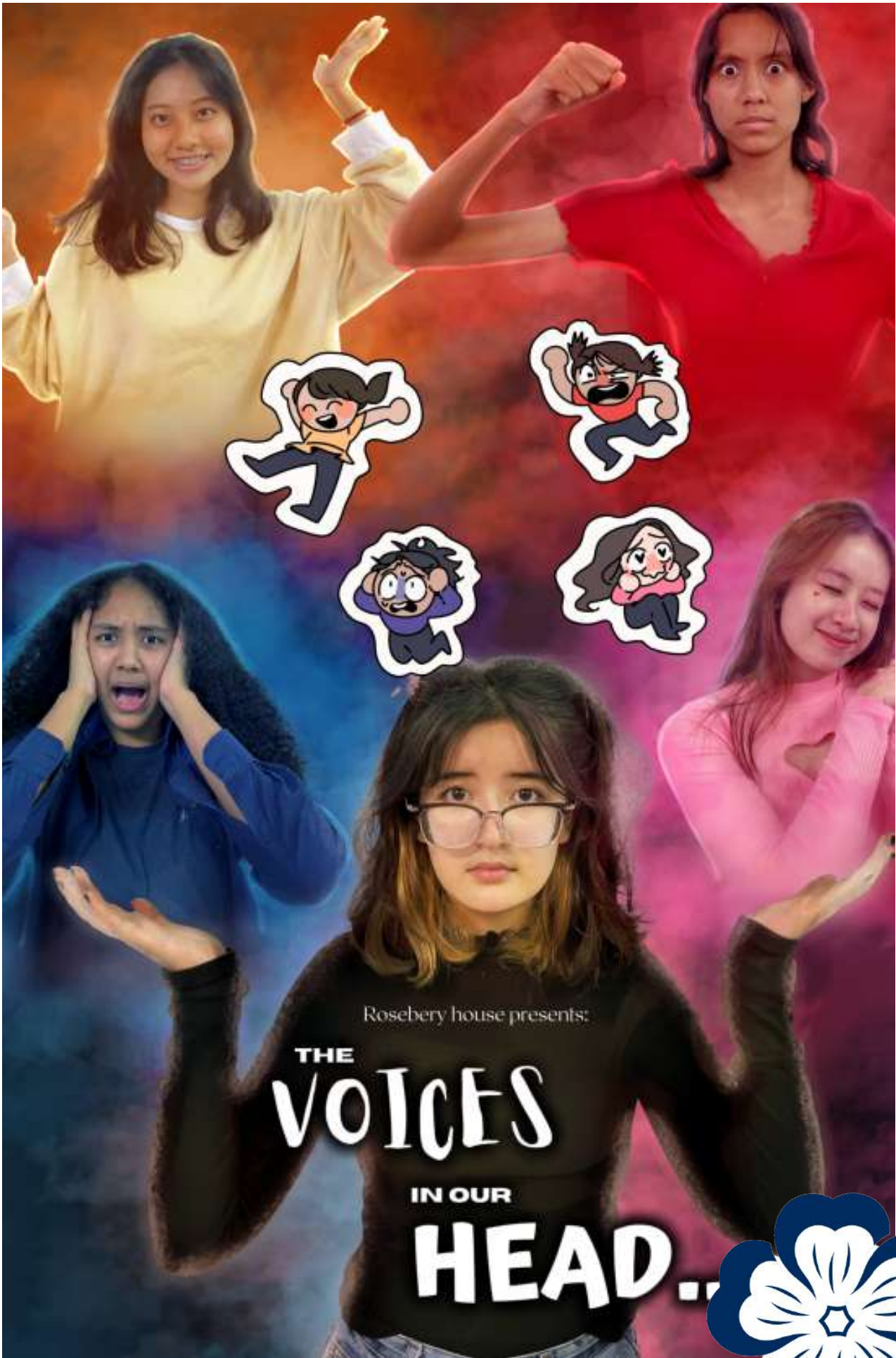
After the results came in, everyone felt a bit disappointed– including me. We had spent so much effort and time during what was already such a hectic month due to exams to not even place on the podium.

But after a while, I realized that the results really didn't matter. We all had believed in our work and gave everything we could and even if the judge didn't agree with us, we thought we did *fabulous*.

In the end I and I think everyone who participated will agree that it was an amazing experience. We will definitely give our best next year and the year after that. I believe wholeheartedly that we have some great talent in Crawfurd and I am so proud of them all!

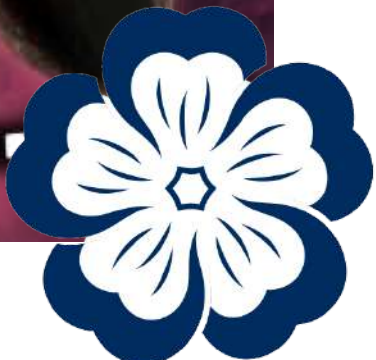
Aisha Azizul

Main cast for Crawfurd House



Rosebery house presents:

THE
VOICES
IN OUR
HEAD..



PLAY SYNOPSIS

Zoe isn't your average high school student; she spends her days listening to the little voices in her head that each represents a different aspect of her personality: happiness, anger, fear, and romance. Every day, she goes through the motions of a teenager toward her crush, her friends, her teacher, and her bully, until a new personality emerges within her. What will Zoe do? Will she be able to control what lies beneath her?

CAST LIST

Zoe : Keia
Happiness : Molly
Romance : Tiffany
Anger : Taranie
Fear : Darshinie
Fabulous : Diana
Lola : Koharu
Karen : Catalina
Alex : Kendra
Brianna : Xin Ling
Fiona : Khai Yue
Teacher : Teja



MESSAGE FROM THEIR HOUSEPARENT

Elation and pride combined - what is that feeling? Euphoria? As an ardent fan of Eurovision I'm reminded of Sweden's blinder in 2012. But while I couldn't pull off those dance moves - watch it, seriously - there are some that could. Like the Rosebery girls. And that's why - well, partly - we found ourselves declared the winners of Epsom's Interhouse Drama 2022. One of our stars, 'mean girl' Koharu, was already at the airport; cue a celebrity-esque moment when 'mean girl' Cata told her the news. Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan, eat your hearts out.

Clever Cadence (no air quotes needed) asked me to write about the experience of House Drama from the point of view of HMM, so I suppose I'm meant to tell tales of voices raised, tempers tried and nerves frayed. But the thing is, it wasn't like that; at least, not from my perspective. Script-writer and director Naomi admitted to rushed (or worse, missed) rehearsals, actors not knowing their lines and moves taking too long to mesh. And yet, every time I was in the dance studio, all I saw was a daffy of busy girls doing their best, helping each other out rather than tripping each other up, and a pair of choreographed songs that made me want to wear a yellow frock and be jazzy in California with Ryan Gosling. Or float on a lido, tanned and fabulous.

It was already life-affirming stuff. Day girls coming in on a Sunday. Upper Sixth girls setting aside their studies to prioritise expression and intonation, embellishment and exposition: just another kind of placing themselves front and centre, you could say. However, while the theatrically talented Xin Ling, Teja and Darshinie were among their number, this was by no means a closed-shop, and there were others who are far more comfortable in a science lab than on a stage. Once again, one of the most endearing qualities of this year's cohort was in evidence - the complete lack of cliques. Long may that continue.

On the night, the flurry of makeup, props and Keia's hair band gave way to enjoying the other performances - Carr's beautiful shadow theatre, Propert's funny sketches, and the wonderful Uncle Hiro. When it came to the question of who would win, I really wasn't sure; after all, these things don't always go our way - just ask the lovely, peace-loving, Europhile Sam Ryder. But the roar that accompanied the announcement is one of the highlights of a happy year with these senior girls who, fittingly, take a leaf out of Judi Dench's very fine book. 'The trick is to take our work seriously, but to not take ourselves seriously at all'.

Kate Orpwood
Housemistress of Rosebery

HOUSE DRAMA RESULTS

1



Rosebery

2



Propert

3



Granville

BEST PROGRAMME



Crawfurd

BEST POSTER & BEST SET DESIGN



Carr

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