

THE CRUCIBLE



Acting in the play *The Crucible* was an amazing experience! After a hiatus of 4 years, it was thrilling to be back on the CIS stage. The choice for this year's production was different from what CIS usually performs; we drifted away from the classic comedies and popular musicals and moved to a rather dark and serious piece, which was a whole new experience for both the actors and the audience.

Set in the Puritan settler colonies of Massachusetts in 1692, *The Crucible* is a dramatization of the events known as the Salem Witch Trials. Originally written as a criticism of McCarthyism and the 'Red Scare' of the 20th Century, Arthur Miller sought to create a political allegory which represented the metaphorical 'witch hunts' that America saw. In today's context, the play can be thought of as an allegory for online culture or the mass panic that broke out 3 years ago at the start of the Covid pandemic. The political message of a play set in 1692 therefore remains ever so relevant in 2023.

In the modern day, misinformation spreads like wildfire and only the ashes of hysteria remain. In such a divided and sensitive modern context, it was no small feat to bring a play of this magnitude to the stage and to convey the inherent ideas to the audience effectively. The audience also comprised mostly younger students and the ability to convey the serious issues was challenging. However, the talented cast worked hard to bring the play to life and made it the immense success it was. Whilst we were exhausted, at the end of the day, the final outcome was definitely worth it. Hearing the appreciative responses and cheers from our audience was rewarding, and we were absolutely thrilled that our hard work had paid off.

Amidst all the seriousness of rehearsals, there was the occasional banter between our cast members which filled the rehearsals with laughter and amusement. The cast were united in our efforts to make the show a success. We got to know each other better, connected with one another and made friendships with those from higher and lower grades, that we hope will last forever!

Preparing to get on stage was a whole new experience. Feeling that sudden burst of adrenaline when you're running late for rehearsals or the feeling that you're missing a prop or a costume piece was truly daunting. Despite all challenges, however, the students of the Drama Society were able to put on an exceptional performance of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and we can't wait to see what interesting play CIS has lined up for us next year!