

# Fall play redefines Juli(us) Caesar

## DGS theater breaks tradition with all-female cast

By Tatum Mitchell,  
Print News Editor

The all-female cast of Juli(us) Caesar screams girl power in every sense of the phrase.

Originally, a cast of almost all men, "Julius Caesar" is about a head-of-state in Rome who gains power quickly which ultimately leads to his demise at the hands of his comrades.

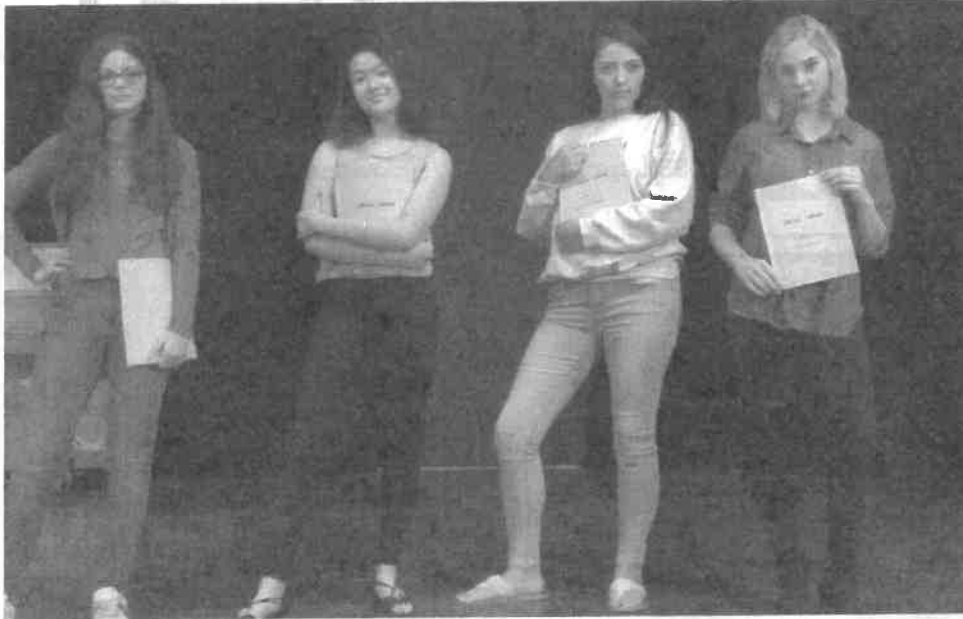
English teacher and director of the play Tiffany Rubin has made multiple changes and alterations to the play. Especially in order to fit the setting of an all girls school named Rome Academy School For Girls.

"Julius Caesar, or Juli Caesar, is kind of the queen bee. She's running for lupal [homecoming] queen, she's head of student council and her girlfriends are fed up and feel like why [shouldn't] they have the same power," Rubin said.

This is the first time in awhile that DGS has done an all-female casted version of a production. The initial reactions of those involved in the theater department were all enthusiastic and positive.

Senior Janella Guzman, who is playing the role of Julius Caesar, believes an all-female production is unique and necessary.

"The first thought I had was, 'girl power,' and I love that Mrs. Rubin had this idea to gender-bend it and also to put it in such a unique setting," Guzman



With practices from early Sept.-Nov. (from left to right) sophomore Alaina Vergara, senior Janella Guzman, sophomore Zoe Boyd and junior Kira Matheson are avidly preparing for their performances Nov. 2 and Nov. 3.

Photo by Tatum Mitchell

said.

Theater member junior Mark Haddleton was surprised by the decision to have an all-female production.

"I was kind of surprised because typically it's just generic fall play generic winter play, co-ed, all that. But looking back on it, it makes sense to me simply because when you look at the composition of our theater [department], it's mostly female, and yet we've been doing shows that have either about 50/50 or mostly male casts, which just doesn't make sense," Haddleton said.

While an all female cast could raise up the subject of lost opportunities for the males in the drama department, the winter

play will be Robin Hood. This is a predominantly male production.

The opportunities for both males and females remain in balance because of the number of females involved in the department.

When prompted with the topic of lost opportunities for male actors, junior Kevin Tate touches on the subject of equality in the theater department.

"I feel like nothing is taken away from us, all the guys that I've talked to about this who are in drama are in support of it and ... it's not any detriment to us ... we know how amazing this thing could be, so we're all in support," Tate said.

There are multiple factors that play into the

theater department choosing their shows.

"I just felt like it was time with what's going on in society with the 'Me Too' movement and also ... our department is huge ... We had a lot of girls that deserve an opportunity to be in a show," Rubin said.

"I think it's good to show that women can also play these very strong roles because they were... almost all, with the exception of two, male roles in Julius Caesar. I wanted to show that women can be just as strong," Rubin said.

Juli(us) Caesar incorporates socioeconomic inequality, a lesbian couple and the obvious factor of an all-female cast.

Sophomore Zoe Boyd, playing the role of Marc Antony, believes there are

multiple messages for the audience, but one concerning equality is most important.

"That [the audience] matters and that even in a male-dominated industry or a heterosexual dominated industry, you can still thrive," Boyd said.

Juli(us) Caesar, along with the topic of women empowerment, shines a light on LGBTQA+ representation and socioeconomic status.

While a large portion of the play is about struggling with high school, the themes stretch beyond one's life within the walls of school.

"[One message is] there is hope and there is life beyond high school. Even though the original Caesar ends on a somewhat dire note, with half the cast being gone, I created an epilogue that shows what life could be after high school," Rubin said.

"Even though Caesar in the original is killed, in this version she actually comes back, which is not obviously written in the script normally, so I feel like it sends the message that ... while you should try to make the most of your time in high school, there is life outside of there, and there is a way to make your life better," Rubin said.

Juli(us) Caesar is being performed at 7:00 pm on Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 in the DGS auditorium. Tickets for the show are free for DGS/DGN students with a student ID and \$10 for general admission.