

CENTRAL

DRAWING THE LINE Senior Annika Lee raises their arms in disbelief after their date, junior Jewell Ralston, tells Lee they eat mac and cheese with a spoon. Despite Ralston's support and understanding for Lee's current job and housing situation, this piece of information was a deal-breaker for Lee, resulting with them storming out of the restaurant. *Photo by Ashil Shao*



[A] LIVE FOR THE APPLAUSE Playing Lady Gaga, senior Saloni Gupta announces the winner of the worst cast at the Silver Sphere awards. Every year, each senior performing in MVSNL is featured in a senior skit that occurs at the start of the show. *Photo by Ashil Shao*



[B] OUR MAJESTY Senior Brooke Frei declares herself as the monarch after gaining possession of the crown from the king's servants. Throughout the skit, members of the king's court fought over the crown and monarchy after the handmaid presumed the king to be dead and took the crown from him. *Photo by Ashil Shao*



MVHS Drama hosted their annual production of MVSNL on Feb. 17

For the second year in a row, MVSNL was completely student written, produced and directed, allowing members of MVHS' drama department to fully immerse themselves in how a production is created and run. This, according to director Maya Pullara (10), is something that allows MVSNL to stand out as an event and show.

"I wouldn't have it any other way because I think it's a very unique experience," Pullara said. "With all of our other plays it's adult directed [and] an adult chose the script [and] the direction and they're your teacher. But having [MVSNL] be student-led creates a whole different dynamic between the director and the actors, which [makes it] way easier for everyone in the school to relate to and laugh at because we're all part of the same demographic."

Alongside being student run and directed, students were also in charge of the marketing, lights and set for the show, a job that lighting technician Aaron Chang (12) finds equally as important as other roles in a production.

"I liked the [roles] where I was not on stage, but was still very important to the

production," Chang said. "I just feel like I play a bigger role if I do tech, and even if I don't get the [front line] attention from the audience, I think it's [still] pretty rewarding from my end."

Mentor Anika Mathur (12) agrees that having MVSNL be completely run by the students is significant, as she feels it allows the show to represent MVHS as a whole and enables unique sketches to be incorporated into the production. Furthermore, she highlights the importance of MVSNL to the MVHS community.

"[MVSNL] is a lot of fun and it's a tradition that every year gets harder to fight to keep," Mathur said. "So many people outside of our [drama] department get exposed to what it's like to be in a show and that exhilarating feeling of being on stage and feeling like a community. [MVSNL has] such a large cast and it's a very unique experience that you won't have in any other show or any other extracurricular. So I definitely think we should keep fighting for it to be kept around and progressing to get more participation from outside the department and get their voices heard."

LOVE IN THE AIR

Variations and Bella Voce previewed their Singing Valentines performances during their Valentine's Day concert on Feb. 10



[C] TIME AFTER TIME Seniors Kenneth Shui, Annika Polavarapu, Joshua John, Joseph Bloom, Clara Takahashi, Ambhranee Yakkundi and Eesha Mokkaapati finish their performance to senior Trisha Sreedhar. During the concert, the groups in Variations performed two of their Singing Valentine's songs while the groups in Bella Voce each performed one. *Photo by Ashil Shao*



[D] TAKE A CHANCE ON ME Members of Variations form a heart around Economics teacher Pete Pelkey at the end of their song. During each performance, the group would call a member of the audience on stage who they would sing to. *Photo by Ashil Shao*

[E] SWEET SURPRISE After senior Dilara Oner's group finishes singing to her boyfriend, Akshat Debnath (11), he gives her a ring pop he brought on stage with him. Along with the ring pop, Debnath also gifted Oner a box in the shape of a heart to thank her the performance. *Photo by Ashil Shao*



[F] EXPOSED Senior Kripa Mayureshwar ends her rap with a pose after setting up her phone to film herself exposing people at the clothing store. Mayureshwar ended up exposing another influencer, junior Arnav Jadhav, for eating a hamburger from Burger King despite calling himself a vegan to his audience. *Photo by Ashil Shao*

[G] SORORITY BROS Sorority members Aishwarya Samptur (12), Suhani Vakhariya (12), Julie Mehat (12) and Fatima Khan (12) comfort senior Ethan Tang after realizing he was only there in order to join another fraternity on campus. After the truth is revealed, they decide to allow Tang into their sorority due to how toxic the people in the fraternity were. *Photo by Ashil Shao*

[H] IDIOT SANDWICH After presenting his dish to host Jayden Lim (11) during the Most Host game show, freshman Aaryan Sharma relays the backstory to the inspiration behind his dish. While the show attempted to find the best host, it ultimately ended in a draw after the prize was revealed to be hosting the next installment for the show. *Photo by Ashil Shao*

IN THE KNOW

Mentor Anika Mathur (12) explains what goes into producing MVSNL

WHAT DO PRODUCERS DO?

"You start the show from ground up. You [need to] figure out what is this show gonna be like. Obviously, we follow the general structure that the original Saturday Night Live does: we always have a musical guest [and] we always have about 10 to 13 sketches. Alongside all of the logistics of just creating the show, producers get to make creative decisions about what they want the show to be like compared to other [roles]."

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM BEING A MENTOR?

"What I realized with mentoring is that it's really difficult to not babysit people. [However,] I also realized that it's too much commitment to continuously tell other people to do things the way you want them to. I think because I let them have more creative freedom, they were able to have these accomplishments and make these decisions that made us where we are right now."

ANIKA MATHUR (12)