

In a time where live theatre is just as rare as seeing a velociraptor roaming about, creativity and inspiration can be hard to come by. But, not for Robinson Secondary School. Their production of *Life Finds a Way* was a fresh take on a world we know and love, Jurassic Park, and how it is relevant in 2021.

The structure of the play is different than your traditional act by act format in that it was made in two parts. In the first part, the CEO of Jurassic Park addresses the investors board of InGen with an update on the reopening of the park after the escape of countless dinosaurs caused it to close for two months. The second section is from the perspective of a low-level employee at the park running an unofficial TikTok account for the park.

Overall, despite how short this production was, it was incredibly detail oriented with a seemingly random source of inspiration. Part one was satirical and humorously compares reopening Jurassic Park with reopening the US during the COVID-19 pandemic while the second half showed the reality of the situation in the park. There is a great contrast between the rich CEO who only cares about money and success and the sacrificed employee who needs the job to live but could care less about the park's reputation.

The performance started out with the CEO of the park, Dianne Soerre (Abigail Camp), who was all consumed with impressing the investors and making money, despite safety concerns with opening the park. Her character build-up was entertaining to watch because of her lack of empathy and unbothered attitude. The satire was elevated by Camp's physicality and the way she managed to keep a straight face while there were constant velociraptor roars in the background.

In the second half of *Life Finds a Way*, the point of view switches over to an employee at Jurassic park and wrangler of the dinosaurs, Tracy Cerato (Katherine Porter), who seemed to be oblivious of most things around her. One of the best parts of this innovative story was the use of Tiktok and all of its classic features like comments and the greenscreen effect, which was a welcome addition to the prerecorded storytelling. Porter used these features to her advantage, even though no one attended her live stream.

The set team (Brooke Hanser/Harry Glickin/Katherine Porter) created different settings like Costco, the woods, and virtual backgrounds which added a compelling touch and kept the video engaging. The editing throughout, from the clever camera cutoffs to the intro card for the InGen investor meeting made for a simple but elevated final product. Also, the sound effects (Beau Baldassari) created velociraptor roars and gunshots that were placed perfectly and helped with the comedic timing.

Even though there was a small cast, this show had the same energy and humor, if not more, of a large show. The challenges of virtual theatre are ever-present, but not as far as dinosaur

wrangers are concerned. Be sure to visit Jurassic Park in the middle of a deadly pandemic and remember that “keeping visitors safe is their number one priority!”

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