

"ET TU, BRUTE?"



Photo by Priscilla Power

Players in San Antonio Academy's eighth-grade production of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* include (from left to right) Fahad Zaman (Casca), Austen McDonough (Volumnius), Anthony Kayruz (Marc Antony), and Zack Rodriguez (Octavius Caesar).

Julius Caesar comes to San Antonio Academy

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This year's performance of *Julius Caesar* at San Antonio Academy was the latest in a decades-long tradition of Shakespearean productions, and in their most recent incarnation under the directorship of Brendan Moore since 1991.

Notable for the focused cohesion among the young actors, as well as some virtuoso individual performances, the shows last week provided some of the best ever staged at the school.

"Many of the players demonstrated a maturity beyond their years in their roles in the play, but attendees in particu-

lar singled out Anthony Kayruz for his portrayal of Marc Antony," Moore said. "Kayruz has a resonance of voice and a perceptive understanding of character that has received many compliments for his performance."

The theater program at The Academy is unique in that it functions as an integral part of the language arts curriculum. The six-week Shakespeare unit allows for a close study of the playwright's life, as well as allowing for a thorough exploration of one of his works.

Unlike typical after-school or elective drama clubs, the unit has an intensive double-class period focus for five weeks, and all students in the grade participate as part of

their English and Literature grades.

Moore says that a chief goal of the study and performance is to permit students to see that the Bard is not the dusty and difficult writer he may be perceived as, but rather a vibrant and accessible source of great joy and pleasure.

All the plays, as in Shakespeare's day, are presented by an all-male cast, and some of the most talented performances are given by actors playing female roles. This has been greatly enhanced in recent years by the exemplary work of makeup artist Begoña Ubieta, an Academy parent who has worked on movies including "Hook," "Still Breathing," and "The Newton Boys."