

A note from our director, Michael Mendez:

Carrie the Musical is best known because the original 1988 production was one of Broadway's biggest musical flops, losing over 8 million dollars and receiving some of the worst reviews in the history of theater. While the original was known for being super campy, it became infamous and garnered a large cult-like following. *Carrie* was then revived at MCC in 2012 with a much different approach to the subject material.

Many people have asked me, "Why *Carrie*," and "Why now?" When we were deciding on the MMC's 2022 season, we reached out to our students for feedback on different musical options, and *Carrie* was the most popular choice by our community. The enthusiasm from students was palpable. The 2012 production grounded the show in truth, which gave the subject matter real weight and emotional conviction. This is what drew me to want to direct *Carrie*.

This revamped version steers away from the campiness and is much more naturalistic and sober-minded. It shines a light on high school bullying and a toxic mother-daughter relationship, which we examined and took very seriously. Carrie's telekinetic powers are a metaphor for being different. As artists, we all know what it's like to feel different. Whether it was as young children growing up, during high school years, or currently in today's divisive climate.

Carrie is in all of us. She is a product of her community, and no one in her world is blameless. Her actions are only a reaction to how she was treated. If everyone had shown her empathy and supported her, what could Carrie have become or accomplished? If they just showed her kindness and love, her powers might have cured cancer... might have stopped wars. I hope *Carrie* leaves you asking yourself, "What does it cost to be kind?"