

Bangor H.S. Play

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embodiment of beauty but also a symbol of resilience and integrity in the face of oppression. Her character is vital because she defies the societal expectations placed on women during this time period. Esmeralda is strong, independent, and unafraid to stand up for what is right.

By featuring Quasimodo—a character with a disability—as the protagonist, we shine a light on the importance of representation. It is essential that people with disabilities see themselves as capable of being heroes. Quasimodo's journey is one of self-discovery, self-acceptance, and ultimately, of love.

Similarly, Esmeralda's role as a strong, independent female character provides a much-needed counterbalance to the typical narratives of the time. In a world where women were often relegated to secondary roles, Esmeralda's courage and independence invite us to rethink the roles that women have in stories, both onstage and in society. She is not a passive character waiting to be saved—she is a hero in her own right.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame reminds us that anyone—regardless of their appearance, gender, or background—has the potential to be a hero. Whether we are shaped by physical challenges or societal expectations, each of us has the capacity to overcome adversity, make a difference, and fight for what is right. Our heroes may not look like what we expect them to, but that doesn't make them any less heroic.

