**American Crime Story**

On Feb. 2, FX premiered "American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson." This 10-episode limited series engulfs you in the O.J. Simpson trial, in which the prosecution and defense battle to either convict or acquit the football legend.

The case focused on the double homicide of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron-ald Goldman in Los Angeles more than 20 years ago. The series is based on the book "The Run of His Life: The People v. O.J. Simpson" by Jeffrey Toobin.

"The People v. O.J. Simpson" is a compelling behind-the-scenes look at the case. Produced by Ryan Murphy (also known for his work on "Glee" and "American Horror Story"), the series is an emotionally layered work with Murphy's classic production style.

The casting is dynamic and spot-on. Sarah Paulson, "American Horror Story" veteran, plays Marcia Clark, the prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson trial. Paulson does a beautiful job of bringing the character to life with a clear hunger for justice in her eyes.

Cuba Gooding Jr. plays the infamous O.J. Simpson. Gooding's performance is incredible, as he brings forward Simpson's eccentricities and an unmistakable anger.

The writers do a phenomenal job at supplying dialogue subtly through

diologue, rather than troubling us with the common problem of dialogue that is much too exposatory.

"The People v. O.J. Simpson" is quickly becoming one of the most compelling TV dramas I have watched (that does not contain superheroes or other supernatural creatures). The series focuses on the case as it is with all of its me-dia exposure, drama and overall spectacle, rather than having an emphasis on somehow exposing the truth behind the trial. The series is a realistic and fac-tual depiction of the "trial of the century" that took place so many years ago.

Even for those of us who were much too young to remember the actual case, this series does a great job of starting at the begin ning, and provided all of the needed information. Another great thing about this series is the cultural sig-nificance here in the United States. This case was so highly watched all around the country that everyone knew of this case, and there was a racial divide over the innocence (or lack thereof) of O.J. Simpson.

There was an inherent distrust of the police by black Americans in this time period, what is great about the timing of this series is that there is a cer-tain relevance because of the more recent events and protests that we are seeing in the U.S. now. In this se ries, we see how the Los Angeles Police Department's history with the city's black community was a signifi-cant factor in the media frenzy that ensued when a black athlete was accused of murdering his ex-wife, a white woman.

You can watch "The People v. O.J. Simpson" on FX at 10 p.m. ET/PT on Tues days. Tweet Me @vanessam-luis

**Student actors to compete in Denver**

Continued from Page 1

award to a school of their choice.

This is the first time for both Najibi and Vargas to be nominated.

"An adjudicator came to see One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest last fall at Ohlone," Smith said. "They picked John and Idrees after watching the show."

Ohlone College's Fall production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" also won six Meritorous Achievement Awards from the Denver Festival. The awards were given to students who worked on the production.

Najibi and Vargas will perform a monologue and two partner-assisted scenes each for the Irene Ryan audition. Their scenes are adapted from classic plays, including Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" and Neil LaBute's "Filthy Talk for Troubled Times."

According to Bell, who was an Irene Ryan nominee in 2013, "The scenes were chosen so they could show case the talents of Idrees," who is the main actor. "I am here just as a prop."

The two theater majors have been preparing for the audition for the past three months. They performed a rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon in front of a casual audience.

"It really helps to perform in front of an audience, because once you're able to do it for one, you can do it for any."