

Julia Boyer

Mentor: Mr. Miles

For my Capstone, I directed two small plays I wrote during my time at SLA.

Specifically, my project consisted of editing my original play, casting and directing. Over the course of two months, the cast would meet twice a week to rehearse and bond with one another. With the help of Aaron Johnson, I was able to organize an appropriate performance time that allowed everyone to see my work. Aaron also helped with props and set design. The original idea was to sell tickets and raise money for the school, but interest was low and, in the end, a free performance seemed more suited for the SLA community.

Bibliography

Annotated Bibliography

1) Colorado State Thespians. *Theatre Arts and Dance: Acting Techniques*. Webolutions Inc. Found January 30 2012. <<http://www.cothespians.com/ActingTechniques.htm>>

This Website has numerous videos of “the great actors” (i.e. Stella Adler and Robert “Bobby” Lewis) discussing acting techniques that they found helpful in their careers. This information will be a unique way to engage my actors if they do not understand what I need from them or if I think that they could use what this website contains. In terms of authority, I think that these first hand accounts from actors and actresses that have created a name for themselves is a primary source. Also, the fact that the website is the Colorado Thespians means that these people are all seasoned actors that understand their information.

2) Dorf, Jonathan. *Playwriting 101*. F+W Media, Inc. 2012. Found November 25 2011. <<http://www.playwriting101.com/>>

This website breaks down the different aspect of play writing; it explains everything from the different types of plays to the format that plays are produced. I used this source to edit my play to make sure that everything was as it should be. It was interesting getting edits, in 10th grade, from the Young Playwright Competition and comparing those to what this website had to say. Johnathan Dorf, the author of the website, is a famous playwright has an impressive authority on the subject. His plays have been produced in 45 states, and he is Co-Chair of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights and Final Draft Resident Playwriting Expert. In short, this guy is an expert in play writing.

3) Neal, Elsa. *Stage Design for Amateur Theater Prouctions*. HearWriteNow 2004. Found January 30 2012. <<http://hearwritenow.com/articles/creativity/stage-design/>>

When thinking about how my play is going to look on stage, this source is extremely useful. It speaks to our situation directly: a amateur theater production. In this website, Neal lists a few simple rules that are easy to follow and completely do-able. I will use this source when I need to gather the props and make backgrounds for the play. While this source is helpful, Neal’s authority on the subject of writing is slightly questionable. She quit her original job to work as a storyteller and has been working on several different writers websites. This may give her experience but it does not mention if Neal has ever produced a play. However, this source will still be a valuable tool.

4) Raynd, Ayn. *The Night of January 16th*. Plume; First Edition edition (January 1, 1971). Found November 30 2011.

Mr. Miles suggested *The Night of January 16th* (TNoJ16) as a possible play for my capstone. After reading it, however, I decided that it was difficult for the actors and the audience. This play is a court case that requires actors to memorize long statements and long dialogues between witnesses and the lawyers. For a high school play, is not appropriate because it is long and requires serious focus. So we decided to drop this play as an option. However, I valued the way Raynd uses one setting in the play because my play is similar in format. So I learned from the way the play was written but decided it was not as helpful as a play. This play was also very different from the other play I read *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which is a comedy and takes place in multiple settings with a variety of dialogues and monologues.

5) Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest and Four Other Plays*. Barnes & Noble Classics (December 1, 2003). Found January 30 2012.

I read this play this summer as an independent reading. I was immediately drawn to the complicated storyline, in which there’s multiple mistaken identities and hilarious conversations with misunderstandings. Wilde is a master of the back-and-forth dialouge; the quick one liners and I used this example when I edited my play. Essentially, this was a motivational and inspirational tool so I could finish my play. It is obviously very different than TNoJ16 in plot and in style. As a reader, I am more likely to read this kind of play.

My Capstone- Digital Form

The link to my play is: <http://bit.ly/LmV51d>



Above is a picture from one of the early rehearsals.