

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
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Reflection on Participating in the 2016 Senior Play: *The Secrets in the Wings*

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Reflection of Senior Play: *The Secrets in the Wings*

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Reflection of Senior Play: *The Secrets in the Wings*

After reading the script of this play during last summer vacation, I had known I would get into a big trouble if I participated in costume and makeup or property group because the transitions between scenes were complicated. In addition, I took 22 credit points, including CC III and West Civilization. Thus, to meet the requirement of graduation with fewer drains, I decided to join the translation group. At the first meeting of Senior Play, Laura said there were too many people in the translation group, and she asked if some of us could join other groups. Then, she said that stage crew had to only make carpentry, move and build up the stage. Initially, I hesitated for a while because I was not sure whether joining the stage group could meet requirement of graduation. Then, I thought that I could accomplish other projects for graduation. Besides, it might be the last time I could take part in a group work with my classmates in my college life, and I wanted to try something I had never done. Therefore, I joined the stage group.

At the first meeting about the detailed design of stage with the director, Autumn, she said she wanted a stage containing high stairs which normal choruses stand on. I replied that it would be impossible for us to make such a big wooden product because Angela only had made some furniture with her father before and I had no experience. However, it was necessary to build up a high stage for actors and actresses to stand for some scenes. Thus, we changed the design of the stage. We decided to lay the long and thick wooden products in Arens Performing Arts Centre layer upon layer with the

shelves to make the structure of stage firmer and steadier. In case the stage would shake when the actors stood on it, we could made pillars to brace the stage.

Apart from the high stage, we needed to make five door frames and hang light bulbs on the fly system with strings. The form of doors was easy, so that was not a big problem. However, we didn't have any wood. We went to ask Assistant Hsaio-Han, and she told us that there was no any surplus wood in SVD Theater. While discussing the sources of materials, Angela said she could take charge in buying the wood. Additionally, she could also order the light bulbs after we visited the stores selling lights near school. At that time, I was glad I didn't have to deal with so many things and then I approved.

Then, I missed some subsequent discussions and didn't ask about the adjustment of structure clearly owing to doing assignments. Therefore, I didn't know what change they made in the stage, so I made some mistakes when we piled the stage in Arens Performing Arts Centre at the first time. After that, to avoid this kind of problems, I tried my best to attend every meeting. If I had to accomplish something in a hurry and needed to ask for leave, I asked detailed contents of the discussion and schedule of next meeting after finishing my assignments at once to make sure I caught up with the progress. Furthermore, I found Angela also had many courses and her personal matters. I thought that I shouldn't let her do so many things and just stand aside. We were in the same team, so we should share the responsibility. Thus, when we needed to discuss or make carpentry, I tried my best to attend every time and share the work.

A few weeks later, I asked Jim Tien and Kevin Ko to join our group because we needed more strong men to help us to make the stage. Then, we created a chatting group in LINE to deliver important messages. However, both of them didn't like to read and reply the messages. It was common that they didn't read and reply the

messages when Angela sent messages to ask all the members to make the wooden doors and pillars. Thus, they were usually absent from agreed time when we had to make carpentry and fly. At that time, I talked to them in private and asked them to check LINE more frequently. It was effective at first. However, after a few days, they disappeared again. Even though they received the messages, they still didn't show up during agreed time because they forgot when they should come. Thus, I informed them the schedule in West Civilization because we all took this course. Gradually, they came on time, and we started to be like a team.

When we started to make the wooden door and pillars, the progress was slow. We originally stayed in Department Library to do our work on Monday and Wednesday afternoon, our common remaining free time. However, the sound of hammering the nails was so loud that other professors came to warn us. Therefore, we had to change the place to keep our woodworking because we couldn't come to school on weekends to do the door. We considered other places and eventually chose Small Paris because the flat tables and chairs there were useful to cut and nail the wood, and it was far away from the classrooms. Thus, we don't need to be afraid to disturb other students and professors in class. As for the door, for we didn't have experience of cutting wood with saws, the sections of lumber were not flat. After we finished nailing the wood and wheels and set the door up, it hardly stood due to tilting. Nailed the iron sheets folded vertically, the door was still crooked but it could stand and slide.

Another important task of stage group was making the fly, and I had a great sense of achievement from it. When we started to design the pulley system and research how to hang the bulbs, we were in a mess. We didn't understand how to connect the electric wires and light bulbs and how to design a useful structure to pull strings with pulleys. Besides, we couldn't set out making the fly until we entered into SVD Theatre to measure the distances of each steel pole of fly system and the height

from the ground. Thus, we had less than two weeks to finish this huge work. With Laura's help, we searched plenty of pictures on Google and followed the instructions. In the process, we faced many problems. First of all, we connected the wrong pole of electric wires and the light bulbs didn't glow. Then, we found that if the wires of negative and positive pole were too close, it might cause short circuits and the bulbs would burn out. Thus, to avoid the risk of explosion, we bound the wires with tapes. However, sometimes the copper string in the electric wires loosened and the bulbs, so we had to untie the tapes and connected the wires again. This process was a waste of time.

Making sure that all the bulbs could be turned on, we stuck them on the wooden holder and prepared to hang the fly on the steel poles. Then, problems came. The distance between each steel pole was not consistent with the width of wooden holder. Thus, the strings hung on the pulleys were not straight, and it would be out of tracks easily. This problem caused the fly would get stuck in the middle and we couldn't pull the fly smoothly. Besides, the fly was heavy and nothing was heavy enough to fasten it. If we had held the thin strings for two hours, we would have been exhausted and our hands would have got injured. Consequently, Laura and Angela decided to get rid of the pulleys and to tie the fly on the steel poles. Therefore, we didn't need to pull the fly.

The final task for stage group was dropping the feathers on the catwalk. Originally, Kevin and I couldn't make the feathers fall on the locations which the director wanted, so we tried a lot of sites to make sure the feathers would fall close to the ideal locations. Then, we found the paths of the catwalk were far from the locations. We tried to blow the feathers with mouth and cardboards, but both two ways made loud noise. Therefore, we discussed with Laura and Autumn to adjust the location of actors and actress and reached the agreement.

From joining this play, what I learned the most was to communicate with group members effectively and efficiently. If they don't answer the messages, I can choose to call them several times or tell them in person. Besides, the way of communication should also vary from person to person. Furthermore, learning making carpentry with the tools and the fly was also an interesting experience. During the process, I improved the ability of analyzing and dissolving the problems and learned to think in different aspects. At last, I want to appreciate all the crew in this play. Without any one of them and their cooperation, this play wouldn't be so great.

