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**Reflection on Participating in the 2017 Senior Play:**  
*All in the Timing*

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2018 Senior Play Reflection (Actor)

### The Things I've Learned in Senior Play

This January, I was one of the leading characters of 2018 Senior Play – *All In The Timing*. I took three parts in the play, which were Bill in *Sure Thing*, Milton in *Words, words, words*, and Barry in *Seven Menus*. It is such an honor for me to participate in the play and work with the crew. During the time, we discussed the script, we rehearsed almost every day, we encouraged each other for better performance, and most important of all, we presented the play on stage together at the end. The joy I felt just can't be put into words, and on top of that, the lessons I have learned from this experience is unlike anything else I have done before.

To begin with, I have learned the importance of preparation from each rehearsal. As a dedicated actor, I needed to memorize the line very carefully in order to keep the practices fluent. Once I forgot the lines, the whole scene would have to be interrupted and started over again. The process of restarting the scenes often took several hours a day. Except memorizing the lines of the scripts, I needed to try to fathom the characters I was going to take parts in the play before the crew started to rehearse. To be honest, the process was not an easy work. I had to convince myself to calm down

one way or another since impetuous atmosphere is often distracting. By practicing over and over again, I have learned to be steady and get into the characters immediately. For instance, when I was trying to act Milton the monkey, I would hypnosis myself to be an actual monkey in reality. I had to do my best to imitate how a monkey walks, eats, scratches, and even fights with other monkeys. Besides actors, I learned that different groups in the crew would need to prepare for different purpose. For example, the props group should be responsible for preparing the props and placing them at the assigned locations before the rehearsal starts; or the translation group should confirm the translated version of the scripts were correct. From tiny details to dramatic actions, these were all the things that needed to be prepared before each practices. In other words, if the preparations were not enough for the rehearsals, the consequences could be disastrous.

The second thing I have learned from the senior play is how to overcome frustrations. We had faced a lot of tasks before the official performance. Take myself for instance; I had difficulties in expressing the emotions of the characters. Acting was a totally unfamiliar thing to me until I participated in senior play, not to mention interpreting three characters at once. I had various problems in each character. Take “Bill” for instance, Bill was the character I played in *Sure Thing*, and he is the type of person who appears to be gentle and perseverative. Unfortunately, I am a person who

owns a completely opposite characteristic from the character Bill. I remembered the first time when I was interpreting the character; everything just did not seem right. The student director, Rita Liu, kept asking me to change the way I used to be in reality. I was having a dilemma at that time since it was a challenge for me to turn myself into the one I was not used to be. After a couple times of practices, I realized the best way to overcome a frustration is to ignore it. As soon as I forgot all the thoughts about the problem, I was able to start all over again. With the assist of directing Professor Chunchan Wei and student director Rita Liu, I eventually solved the task. On the other hand, the whole crew had faced a frustrating problem either. We couldn't find a stable and proper place for rehearsal, and that was not a trivial matter at all. We tried to borrow spare classrooms at the very beginning; then we applied for the public spaces in school. In the end, we found a place specialized for rehearsals. Nevertheless, the place cost an amount of money so we had to reduce the budget for other uses. The point is, the moment when I saw each of the crew members were trying to figure out the problems or trying to help during that time, I had a sense of feeling that we were infinite. Anyhow, I have learned that a good teamwork could be a savior of frustrations.

Last but not least, I have learned that consistent practice is the shortcut to success.

If there is anything I could recall from the senior play, the last thing I would forget is

all the practicing processes. The rehearsals before the formal performance were very intensive. We seized all the spare times during weekdays to practice the play every time after time. We even met on weekends just to revise a scene of the play. As the saying goes, “practice makes perfect”. There is no such thing as perfection, but we could at least try to get as closer as we could to perfection. Take the role Barry, which I played in “Seven Menus” for example. I never felt satisfied when we rehearsed the scenes. I always expected to perform better than the rehearsal last time. It reminded me what Wei kept telling us, “You shall never be satisfied about your performance even after the official play.” I was not able to understand what Wei said until the day I step on the stage and faced the audiences. I realized that practice is an eternal thing. We were always practicing, and will always be practicing even when we get off the stage. I have learned something that is extremely important than everything I have received from the experience. Success is the moment when we reached the goals that was set by ourselves. However, we could success not only once, twice, or three times. It is about keep moving on to the next level and try our best to improve what we had learned. Furthermore, we should learn to correct our mistakes through each practice. In that case, we will be able to success again and over again.

Overall, I had a great time in the theater, and gained a lot from the senior play.

The thrilling feeling while I was performing on stage still exists in my mind now. I

really appreciate that I had the opportunity to work with all the superior actors, directors, and all the technical staffs. Like I mentioned above, a good teamwork owns the ability to solve obstacles. Without the cooperation of every crew members, the play could not be done. Moreover, it was the contribution of all the crew members that gave me the chance to show and express myself on stage. I could remember the moment when I found myself chosen as one of the actors, and it is still an unforgettable to me now. I am also grateful for having a special chance to learn and work with the director Chunchan Wei. I am really glad that I learned a lot from 2018 Senior Play. Hope this special memory would last forever. "It is all in the timing."