

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 2017 Senior Play:
All in the Timing

SANCTITAS BONITAS

PULCHRITUDO

VERITAS

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Senior Play

Learning Outcome Demonstration

LOD Reflection on 2018 Senior Play- *All in the Timing* Sound Effects Group

What was the best part of your college life? Now that I think of it, senior play was definitely one of the best experiences of all. The fact that it was my very first time to join any play that is not obligatory made me nervous; however, everything turned out way too amazingly. It is difficult to explain, the joy of being together and sharing the same goal with a group of people, and the excitement of progressing as a whole. There are too many to share, from the moment you laid your hand on the script till when you can remember almost every line of the play with your crew, and the feeling, the magic of theater. I would say that been a part of the play was the most valuable memory and pleasure of mine in college life.

At first, I hesitated about whether or not I should join the play; because I was afraid that I could not balance between schoolwork and senior play, worry that I could not manage the job and lead the group well. Nonetheless, I was convinced by Joey, one of the stage managers, and decided to sign up as the leader of sound effect group. It was my last and only chance to get to know more about my fellow student, and I was immensely interested in back stage equipment, especially sound operation. Back in freshman year, I was also responsible for sound operation in the mini play "Pygmalion", and ever since then I started having interest in the sound effect control booth and the function of it.

The director of the play Rita chose four short plays from *All in the Timing*, including *Sure Thing*, *Words, Words, Words*, *Seven Menus*, and *Long Ago and Far Away*. All four plays had different demands on different type of music, and I had so much fun and was exploded with imagination when I read the play. The four plays are not actually connected, but Rita and Derrick managed to link the four plays smoothly and impressively. As a sound effect, one of our jobs is to find the suitable music and sound effect for the play, and I must say our group was very lucky to be led by director and actors with thoughts. Although we found most of the music by our own, but they always gave us clear direction, and even provided us some of the music. However, the process of searching for various music were not easy, we were turned down for many times and the music list was not settled till last three days before the play. I felt a little depressed when the music or sound effect was declined; on the other hand, I think that is what made our play so successful; that is, the pursuing of perfection.

One of my favorite plays from *All in the Time* is *Sure Thing*; I really like how Brian and Alina act out the character of a city guy and a city girl trying to pick up the “right” conversation, and the ring bell from the play was actually rang by one of the sound effect members, Cherry, directly from the backstage. At first, we actually tried to look for a number of bell sound, but all of it didn’t sound as we expected. Therefore, we decided to ring the bell ourselves with microphone, isn’t it cool? Cherry, Helen, and I all had different job in the back stage; one of the most important jobs of Cherry’s was to ring the bell. It is not as simple as it seems, she needs to watch every move of the actors made on stage closely so that she can

ring the bell precisely. She also needs to control the angle and distance of the microphone and the strength to ring the bell so it wouldn't sound too small or too loud. Anyhow, she did great and we were all really proud of her.

Overall, I really appreciate the opportunity of joining such a wonderful play. I was given a chance to learn more about the sound effect control booth through workshop arranged by the director, and I had the best teammate, Cherry and Helen. Throughout the whole semester, we cooperated well and did not fight nor had any quarrels, and most importantly, we helped each other out when we have problems. Although I was the leader of the sound effect group, Helen had much more experience than I did, so she taught me many things. The most challenging job for me during the play was cross fading, I had to fade out one track and fade in one track at the same time. Thanks to Helen, she introduced me this useful app called Virtual DJ; it is an app which allows you to put four tracks and control them at the same time, and that is why I managed to handle the cross fading. In conclusion, I learned how to distribute my time well, how to work with people harmoniously, how to use the sound effect control booth, and how to appreciate a play. Ever since senior play, I went to every play by our department, and I learned to observe not only the actors on stage but also all the effort by the crew in theater. I think it is really important to look at the whole picture but not only a part. Been a part of senior play has taught me many things beside the technical skills, and I think that is more valuable than any course or textbook can ever teach me.



