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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 *All in The Timing* Reflection

First of all, I have to thank the director, Rita, for having me involved in this wonderful adventure. It was my second time to be an actor in our department's play. Last time, I was just a freshman. To play, I could say I had zero knowledge about it. That was such a harsh time, or you could put it more directly, it was a nightmare. However, that was a great training to grow not only my knowledge about acting, but mental constructions, such as pressure resistance, confidence, and stage fright.

This time I played the role, Paul, in the play *Seven Menus*. At first, Paul was not my role. But, in one of the rehearsals, the teacher came, and he thought my voice and the way I look are close to the character, Paul. He had me say some lines, and also have some interactions with other actors and actresses. It seemed that the result was quite satisfying. Then, another actor and I exchanged the role.

In the beginning, I was a bit afraid of the problem of remembering lines because the time we exchanged roles was about one month away from the official performance day. However, to my surprise, some of Paul's characteristics are quite similar to mine. The good parts about his characteristics are real, innocent, and positive. In contrast, his bad characteristics would be slow reacted, selfish, childish and indifferent. He's just like a big kid. He does not really care about what happen around him. The only thing he cares is him self. In Scene one, we can perceive this guy as a brainless person. He only pay attention to the food written on the menu, and ignore the content his friends are talking about. Also, in the beginning of the play, he is so concentrating on the name of the restaurant, and after ten minutes, he is still

asking the same question. To audience, Paul might be a really funny guy because of his odd behaviors. Normal people would say about it, but not confused about it. He is so innocent that sometimes the audience would pop out the question like is he dumb? He does not care about other's conversation, and he will ask directly and loudly to let his friends hear it. The funny point of it is that he does not do it on purpose, and instead, he asks the question in a really serious way, like he is really perplexed about it. And, this sort of scenarios often happens to me. Therefore, the point is quite similar to me, I guess. Sometimes, I would tell a bad joke or make a bad reply to other question. Almost every time, the situation would be super embarrassing. But, why do my friends still laugh about it? The reason is that I deliver my response seriously, like I am the only one who understands the situation, but the truth is absolutely not. The audience might think that Paul is dumb, and he does not want to listen to others. The truth is, he actually does hear about it, but he chooses to ignore it. That is the great part I like Paul in the first scene. He does not like to and want to judge the private things about people. That's to say, he is not gossip at all. Scene one ends with the line from Paul, "Does anybody want some waffles?" It is hilarious that he does not notice that Jack and Ruth have already fallen into their love space. Paul thinks that everyone is studying the menu like he is doing. Then, he finds that he is the only one who is being funny. The scene stopped at the moment that Hazel and Paul both put their sights on the sweet couple Jack and Ruth sitting in front of them. The feeling is powerful because it makes a contrast between a young couple and the old married couple. It shows a situation that every couple would encounter in reality.

In Scene two, Paul meets the guy, Barry, who seems to be successful because he keeps talking about the business he is doing. Paul is really interested in this man, wearing the expensive suit and luxurious watch. Different from the past, he pays

attention to what Barry's saying. He is trying hard to be Barry's buddy. In this scene, we can see how simple Paul is. He believes any words from this successful alike guy. He believes the thing he sees easily. Barry looks like a successful, and rich guy. That is only his appearance, and it does not mean he really is. Also, Paul has not figured out Barry's personality and whether he is trustful or not. Scene two foreshadows what will happen in scene three. In scene three, Paul makes a new girlfriend, Dawn. Dawn is attractive, passionate, but she is realistic and cruel. Paul is so happy that he tries his best to introduce her to his "buddy", Barry. Actually, Barry does not care about Paul at all. He is managing to take Dawn away from Paul. However, Paul does not notice at all. He opens his entire mind to Barry. Barry just keeps boosting himself by talking about how big his house is or how successful his business is to attract Dawn, the money woman. Scene three ends with the brother's fist. It is an ironic moment that in the next scene Barry kicks out Paul because Dawn is no longer his. Paul would never think that Barry and Dawn would betray him. He is the one in the box, and that's definitely hurt.

Paul is a pathetic character. He brings us laughter, but also tears. I have a great sympathy for him. He is a guy, who is that real, and innocent. He does not believe there are schemes between human being. Or, maybe he does not want to. Paul only wants to live in the peaceful world that everything is kind to him, and without any betrayals. However, it is impossible because it is not how the reality works. Therefore, in the end, he is out of this game.

There are two difficult parts to play the role, Paul. First is how am I going to make myself not to look so awkward on the stage. A lot of time, Paul is doing his own thing because he does not want to join the topic he is not interested in. Therefore, I have to think about, for example, how Paul will study the menu, and what kind of

moves he will take. Moreover, when is the good timing to have to sip or laugh because there are a few embarrassing moments which every actors and actress should show some moves to get through the embarrassing timing. Paul is responsible for it because to others he is the big kid. To put it more straightforwardly, to others, he is a dumb, so he is the best person selected for the work to deal with the embarrassment. Second, I have to practice how Paul's laughter should be like, and it cannot be monotonous. Or, it will bore the audience. Compared to other characters, Paul's lines are not too many. But there are still many notes I have to make. The reason is that I have to make a great connection to other characters, and make it smoothly. Paul is like a transition. Every time he speaks, and there would be some atmosphere changing. Although he is the guy sitting there doing his own thing, he is the important one to control the atmosphere of the play.

I really like this character because he is the guy with the pure mind. After we graduate from the college, starting to work, we might not see someone like him anymore. Your colleagues will put their own benefits at the first place, and won't share his/her true mind with you. *Seven Menu* is really a great play. It depicts how the human work, and show eight kinds of personalities to the audience at the same time. Furthermore, it depicts the reason why people would get together, and why they will leave someone behind. It is a sentimental play, including many emotions. You will laugh at some moments, but you will feel bad when someone leaves in the end of every scene. That is sort of depression the play wants to give the audience. You will feel sad, but you will remember every character on the stage because of their wonderful stories. And, that is life going to be. We all have to accept the arrangement because we cannot resist it in some ways.

Last, I am glad to be a part of the senior play. There are no reasons for me to not falling in love with theater because I think theater has a magic that will attract you for a long time. Every thing in the theater is so beautiful that I would never forget, lighting, sound effect, the pros and the stage. I really enjoy every moment when I am on the stage. I like to be the spotlight, which is watched by lots of people. I take that as my glory in life. After graduating, I may not have the chance to act again. Therefore, I am very grateful to be a part of the play, and thanks to our department to offer this precious opportunity to fulfill my dream of being an actor.