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

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2017 Senior Play Reflection

Reflection on 2017 Senior Play *All in the Timing*

All in the Timing is a collecting of one-act plays written by the American playwright David Ives and our director chose four out of fourteen. I was an Assistant Stage Manager this year. I was mainly responsible for the management of the sound team and translation team. During the play, I assisted with our stage manager, Ronnie Yang to make cueing. Throughout the process, I have learned communication skills, time management and the knowledge of a play. Moreover, four plays we chose were all amazing either in the script or on the stage. They are witty, philosophical and dramatic. The audience can feel how the time goes on the stage; or further, observe how time influences the relationship among people which reflects the reality we might face in the real world. This playlet is really close to our times; especially, the interaction between man and woman in different times, the gorgeous but changeable city life.

Generally, four plays of the fourteen deals with time's different perspective. Sure Things indicates that there might be a great number of possibilities for a couple to get together or have a conflict, etc. In Words, Words, Words, audience can sense that there are experimenters trying to force three monkeys produce Hamlet with their typewriters. In Seven Menus, throughout the seven dinner dates reveals the development of the characters' relationships, which symbolize how quick the city life can be. The last act, Long Ago and Far Away depicts a scene in a house, where the couple hold different opinions of time and lifestyle. We can see how realities and fantasy vary in different moments. These short stories portray the relationships, mistakes, choices, timing, and the meaning of life which also represent the events and

encounters we have with other throughout everyone's life.

Sure Thing is a perfect act for an opening of the playlet. The process of a man and woman's repeating conversation can really arouse the audience interest and also echo the name of our play because for a couple to get together is all about timing. The plot actually makes me think that if we can have the acquaintance with one another, it is all about fate and timing. It only needs one single mistake can result in the failure of a relationship. In this act, the bell serves as a buffer to stop all the potential topics of conversation which might negatively influence the development of the new relationship. From other perspective, how many assistance we need to build up a relationship or merely finish a successful first encounter.

Words, Words, Words seems to be the least relative to the topic, All in the Timing. Actually, the audience should sense that three characters all have their life story before. They might have lived in the South Africa, but end up being forced to produce Hamlet while no characters know what is Hamlet. Forcing the subject to produce something they have no idea is truly ironic, which reminds me the education we receive, sometimes I feel like students do not fully understand or be able to get satisfactory scores not for their parents and teachers instead of themselves. Plus, as the mysterious reason why the experimenters choose Hamlet, students do not understand why they must prepare for the basic competence test, and it has been the only way to judge the ability of a student.

Seven Menus is also full of the meaning of life. Relationships can be complicated, changeable all because of time. In this point of view, time is extremely powerful; it changes everything without being noticed. In addition to the romance, this act also deals with how time changes people's thoughts and belief. One of the characters, in the beginning, values the romantic relationship; however, several scenes later, she breaks up with her former boyfriend and turn to the successful businessman.

The changing is dramatic, but nobody can deny it might be a realistic situation in a real life. Therefore, Seven Menus lets the audience witness how powerful time is in only twenty minutes.

Long Ago and Far Away is the most difficult and philosophical act. In fact, most of the audience said they do not really understand the meaning and the ending of this act; however, it seems to be a perfect choice as the ending of our play since the story arouses the audience's thinking and the ending results in different interpretations. I am really fond of this act since it is the most normal act comparing the rest three acts; however, it depicts the woman's philosophical thinking that what is reality and his boyfriend, who is totally confused throughout the act. Most of us, like me, are similar to the male character; that is we try hard to solve the problems we face in the real world, and we want to be practical. Undoubtedly, being rational and realistic is not wrong, but Laura in the play, let us look at lives in different ways.

I, as an assistant stage manager, actually did not make solid contribution in the beginning of this play. Three of the stage managers start to observe their rehearsal one to two months before the play. Our main responsibility was to make sure the backstage crew work in a right pace. As time goes by, the backstage began to follow the play by playing the sound effect, placing the props for actors and actresses to feel the atmosphere of the characters more easily. We also need to feel the situation and characters' thoughts to find out the most suitable lights and sound for the play. Besides, considering that the audience might not be able to understand the English play as native speaker, the crew also contains Translation group to help them understand the beauty of our play in Chinese's perspective. I spent some time discussing with them trying to make the best word choice. Actually, the revise of the translation is endless since every time we watched the rehearsal, it always gave us different inspiration and interpretation. Afterwards, the crew had to translate the lines

into fluent, interesting and accurate Chinese.

Senior Play requires the cooperation between different groups and leaders. Inevitably, the conflict would happen during the co-work; especially, when everyone tries to do their best to make the play perfect. For example, director had to communicate with the Sound and Light team and brainstorm together in order to know what is suitable to every single scenes or moments. Why did we be very obsessed with theatre after the end of the play? We really put many efforts to improve every part of the play. As the assistant stage manager, I also have to make sure our ideas practically being transformed into effects to help our actors and actresses give the excellent performance. The most memorable time the last week of Senior Play, every crew members worked together to improve every parts of the play. For example, Light team can only put their idea into practice when they were finally in the theater.

I am really grateful that we have an excellent director and talented actors and actresses. The last but not least, our professional director, Chunchan Wei, inspired us with a high and solid skillset not only things that happened on the stage but also how the crew should co-work behind the stage. It was a really valuable experience to watch and observe how Wei guided our actors and actresses. Senior Play will be an unforgettable memory in my college life. We learn, feel, enjoy, produce, during the process. The feeling and inspiration throughout the play are beyond words.