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Reflection on Participating in the 2018 Senior Play: *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*

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Senior Play – The Wonderful World of Dissocia

Reflection on Being in the Team of Public Relation of Senior Play

Public relation team was actually not my first choice when I decided to attend the Senior Play crew, but later, I feel I am so lucky to meet several good team

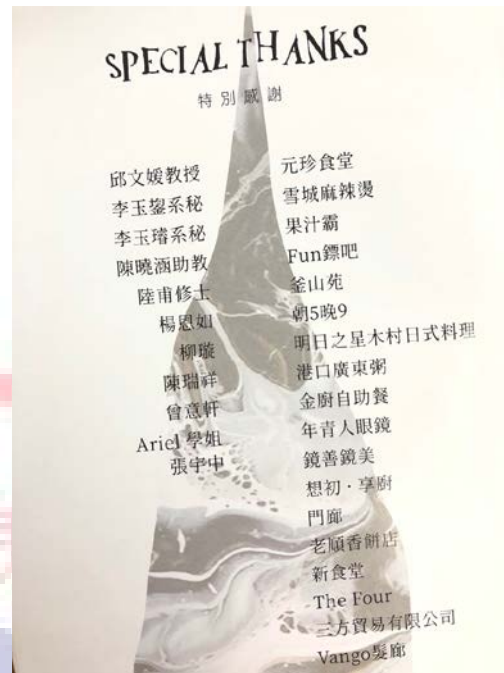


members and feel so proud of our team. Generally speaking, the main goal of our team is to promote Senior Play, and the most important task that our team has to do is looking for sponsors. Besides, we are also responsible for opening and operating the Facebook fan page of Senior Play, helping the ticket team sell tickets, and organizing the entering and

leaving of the audience during the three days of the play.

Looking for sponsors is really the most difficult task. We went to all the restaurant and shops around our school and also went to Xinzhuang Street Night Market. Every time before we went into a store, we would cheer up each other and tried to be brave enough. In fact, we prepared to be refused every time before we went in. It was not really easy to tell the shop owners that we were coming to ask for sponsors. We would try to explain our play as clearly as possible and tried to be as polite and humble as we could. Some shop owners were very kind and friendly, but some were not. Some owners would directly say to us, “Oh you just want money, right?” This kind of asking really embarrassed us. Or some owners would suddenly turn into a bad face after learning that we were coming for asking some sponsors. We

understood that it was not their obligation to sponsor us, so we always tried to be friendly and humble, and we would explain our activity clearly as we could. But sometimes when we met some unfriendly owners, we still felt very frustrated. Luckily, we met a lot of good people and in the end, our accomplishment was 17,500 dollars, totally from those restaurants and shops. It



is really fortunate that I have great team members. We encouraged each other every time while we were refused again and tried to have fun during the difficult process of looking for sponsors.

The other vital job we have to pay attention to is to organize the entering and leaving of the audience during the three days of the play. On the first day, we thought of a way to lead the audience, and we considered that might be okay. However, we were entirely wrong. The situation of the first day was such a mess. For example, since we had to help the audience take on the entering bracelets before they entered



the theater, we did not arrange anyone inside to lead the audience to their seats. We had already pasted several labels of A, B, and C in every section, so we thought that the audience could find their seats by

themselves. But the truth was that they could not. Some people seemed to sit in the wrong section so that some other people could not find their seats because their section seemed to be full. We still solved the problem and made everyone sit in the right seats at the end, but apparently, we did not make a good organization. As a result, we came up with a new way and asked for help from the team of art and design. We borrowed two people from their team to help us lead the audience to their seats. In addition, I stood beside the outside door to control not to let too many people come in at once, in order not to make a mess. Though it was still a little bit chaotic, the situation became much better than the first day. All of us felt really nervous at that moment because we were really afraid if anything went wrong.

As being in the public relation team, we had to communicate with a lot of different and unfamiliar people. When we came to look for sponsors, we had to think of how to tell the shop owners our goal clearly and quickly, and we also needed to consider which kind of words and phrases were the better ones. It was kind of a process of persuasion; we tried to persuade those owns and bosses to sponsor our play. After several times of practicing, we knew more about how to speak more clearly and persuasive. We were not confident at first when we started looking for sponsors, but later while we had more and more experiences, we became more confident and certain about what we should say when we stepped into a store. In addition,



communicating with the audience is really another business. Some audiences came late after the performance had already begun, so we would ask them to wait a little bit since we had to ask the stage managers when was proper to let them come in. During this process, some people were impatient, and they would ask why they could not come in. What we could do at that time was just to try to appease them and tried our best to make them be calm, sit down, and wait for a moment. How to solve the problem properly with different people is a crucial issue I learned from these experiences.

Almost all of the duties of the public relation team are about getting along with or communicate with people, so what I have learned most is actually about how to



successfully communicate with people and fulfill our objective. We have successfully found 18 sponsors, but in fact, there were more than 30 stores we have been to. Some of the shops we

even went there twice or three times. Consequently, we were trained constantly how to answer with smiles to any different and strange questions. While encountering some unfriendly owners, we still had to present our best smiles and act humbly. Communicating with people is really a big lesson; thus, being in the team of public relations gives me a chance to practice how to speak, respond, and act appropriately. Though sometimes we still did not do very well, at least, we had the chance to practice and knew how to improve before starting to work in a professional workplace.

Although what we did in public relation team are not directly related to the play itself, and we were not in the theater, either, we helped the whole activity to be held and carried out smoothly. Pasting the poster, selling tickets, running the Facebook fan page, and so on, all these things seem tiny and trivial, but we really did all the things with our best. During these three months, we encountered many people, both kind and unfriendly ones, and I have to say, kind people are always more than the opposite ones; that is why we could get more sponsors more than we had expected. We met some chaos – on the three days of Senior Play and at the time when we sold the tickets. However, we made it through together. We also encountered some frustration while looking for sponsors,

but we cheered up each other and got courage from our members. Therefore, I think “teamwork” is the last but also the most important thing I learned from the experience in



Senior Play. Sometimes even ourselves were not sure how to do or whether we do right things, but we would discuss together, come up with solutions, and help each other to complete the tasks smoothly. The whole play is completed by so many teams, and every team accomplishes their tasks with the efforts of all the team members.

Without teamwork, the play would not appear. I feel touched to see our Senior Play being held smoothly and successfully, and I do really learn a lot of things. It is my honor to be one of the crew in creating the world of Dissocia.