

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATION PROJECT 2020

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**Reflection on Participating in  
the 2019 Annual Play: *Vinegar Tom***

SANCTITAS BONITAS

PULCHRITUDO

VERITAS

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LOD: 2019 Annual Play Reflection

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2019/Oct/28



### 2019 Annual Play Reflection

I remember the first play I watched in my college life was the 2016 senior play *The Secret in the Wings*, at that time I was totally amazed by the performances on stage, and promised myself that one day I am going to shine on that stage just like them. However, not until the 2018 Annual Play did I finally pluck up the courage to go to the audition, and fortunately got the role of a mother. Even though I did not have much scene, this experience made me become more certain about the eagerness I have towards the stage. Therefore, I not only participated in the 2018 Senior Play, but also decided to attend the 2019 Annual Play as well.

The play that is chosen for the Annual play this year can say to be my favorite script so far. This was my third time being an actress, and I feel like I finally got a role that is more authentic and more dynamic. When I first read the play, I didn't feel much about it; however, throughout the practice, I gradually feel the struggle and fear of my character, Susan. Though we might see these incidents as ridiculous or non-sense, these are events that really happened in the past. After delving into the history, I feel pity for those women who had been oppressed and stigmatized, only because they were not fitting in the society norms. Just because of some petty matters or coincidences can bring an end to the women's lives. As a

woman living in a modern world, it was really hard to picture a life like that, so it actually took me quite some time to get in my character.

When I first saw my character, I found it really hard to relate to her; after all, I am not a person who is that sensitive and emotional. Nevertheless, after reading the play for multiple times, I found out that Susan is actually a really fascinating and interesting character. She is, or maybe I should say “I am”, a timid woman who is afraid of many things, but I eventually stood up and speak against Alice, which in my opinion is a really courageous act. Apart from whether the action is right or wrong, what Susan does in the end is truly a reverse of her timid personality. One of the hardest part is that I really need to accumulate my fears from the very beginning of the play, so that I can push Susan’s psychological state to the limit, and break



down at once. I have to say acting hysterically on stage takes a lot of energy, yet it is also enjoyable at the same. The other challenging part is that this play involves A LOT of screaming and crying; therefore, it is important for me to distinguish the different types of Susan’s tears. Also, acting that way on the stage is exhausting, sometimes it just makes my throat really sore.



Although there are always tiring parts when being a performer, there are always some rewarding parts, as well. In the Annual Play this year, I finally get to experience some sort of musical on stage, which is definitely a dream come true. Moreover, I really do think I made a lot of improvement and progress in acting. One of my favorite part in the play is the part where Irene sings *Lament for the Witches*, that song always makes me cry, especially when I'm on stage. I always feel sentimental at that point, "all the world's a stage" and nothing last forever, not even hatred. I feel especially touched by the reconciliation between Alice and Susan on stage, and I never thought I can burst into real tears while performing, but there I was, and my tears just can't stop rolling down my cheeks. At that moment, Susan and I truly became one, as if I had really been through her life and the joy and sorrow of the character became so authentic to me.



Among all the characters I had played before, Susan is a character that allows me to “think”. I need to think of the reasons why she delivers the lines, and all her intention of doing the actions. She is special to me since she is the first role I got that exist through the whole play. In the play, her thought is constantly changing, and all of her actions are a series of incident that I need to take into consideration while I am working on my characterization. I really appreciate our student director, Daniel, who always gives me a lot of flexibility to try on different interpretation, and also he is never stingy to give me compliments that encourages me. Working with him was really something enjoyable, and we often creates different sparks when discussing the play. In fact, I believe all the crew did an extraordinary



job this time, so that is why the performance was a great success.

If you ask me what the most memorable part of college is, I will definitely say it is the days I spent on stage as a performer. Being able to play all kinds of role is something that always fascinates me, and that is why I decided to participate again in the Annual Play this year. Although I love the theater, I don't dare to live on acting for the rest of my life. Therefore, I would like to seize every opportunity to perform on stage while I am still in

college, and I am sure that I will never regret to do so. To me, the stage is something magical that brings everything to life, the characters, the story, and the spirit. Nothing feels more authentic than the heat of lights shining on me. Being able to do things I love in the four years of college is something I can not ask for more. I am glad and proud to be a part of the English department and also the wonderful production team of plays.

