

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

學生：謝詩涵 撰

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31 September 2019  
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Learning Outcome Demonstration Report--- 2019 Annual Play

*Vinegar Tom ---- Alice*

I always enjoy watching play and also enjoy being on stage. Being a performer just strongly enhances my sense of achievement. In 2016, I first watched the play in our department and I was fascinated by the whole performance. At that moment, I decided to join every play in the department.

When I was a sophomore, I finally had the courage to go for the audition. Every participant needed to prepare a five-minute monologue for the audition. I at last chose a monologue from *Dogface* by Kellie Powell, which is an emotional one. I even cried when I was practicing it. This was my first time preparing for an audition and I was so nervous that I almost forgot my lines during the audition. At last, I luckily got a role in 2018 Annual Play, *Everyman*, and had the chance to cooperate with the excellent crew. *Everyman* is a hard play to demonstrate in my opinion because there are lots of abstract concepts and roles in it, such as Knowledge, Goods, Sound and Smell and so on. The character I got was one of *Everyman's* friend, Sound and Smell, which were parts of chorus. This was definitely challenging for me since I needed to play more than one character simultaneously and sing on the stage on my first-time performance.

<2018 Annual Play – *Everyman* Scene 1>



Playing an abstract character was so difficult that I needed to spend so much time to understand how to demonstrate it even though I in fact did not have that much lines. However, at the same time, I gained full of experience through this play. After finishing the performance, I realized how important to analyze a script and character, and also learned how to demonstrate different personalities. Feeling the heat and the light on the stage enhanced my confidence and also formed my ambition to challenge various characters.

Therefore, I attended the audition of 2019 Annual Play, *Vinegar Tom*. With the experience before, I was not nervous as much as I was and I gradually knew what kinds of script would be simple for me to interpret. I chose a shorter monologue which made me memorize the script more easily and more quickly to get into the character. The monologue I chose was Amy's from *And Turning, Stay* by Kellie Powell. The most interesting part from

this audition was that Alice from *Vinegar Tom* is a role that is actually quite similar to Amy from *And Turning, Stay*. They are all waiting for love and longing for love. When I knew I got to play Alice, I just thought that I really picked a right monologue for my audition.

In *Vinegar Tom*, 2019 Annual Play, I played Alice, who is a single mother of a baby boy and lives with her mother, Joan. I felt so lucky to play one of the main roles in this play.

<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice’s profile photo>



This was the first time for me to play a real character in a play. Unlike the last role, I need to make more effort to dig into this character, form her personality and complete her background story. In my opinion, Alice is an independent and brave young woman who is eager for love and wants a complete family. She is so different from the women in that generation and she tries so hard to have a better and different life from the other women at

that time. However, she was so hurt by her lover, and even her friend betrayed her at last. In this play, I lived in Alice and I experienced her miserable life. I saw how a woman was accused of things that she hadn't done. She is the typically beautiful tragedy in that generation of witch-hunting.

This character was much more challenging for me because compared to the role last time, I got to interact with other actors more. For example, in scene 1, I had to act like a little girl asking for more love and also to enjoy the cuddling with the male character, which made me feel a little bit awkward. However, with practicing over and over again and the instruction from the director, I had overcome the obstacle after all.



<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice and the Man>

Not only the romantic scenes but also the emotional and action ones were challenging. One of the memorable scenes for me was that my mother, Joan, and I had quarrel due to the

life struggles. We were too poor to raise ourselves or even my own son. I always felt sorry and almost cried when I saw Joan going to Margery, our neighbor, asking for food. Mandy, who played Joan, did a really good job and I had learned a lot from her when rehearsing with her. She could always take others into the atmosphere in a short time and she also gave me a lot of suggestion then.



<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice and Joan>

Another emotional scene I would like to mention was the one that Susan, played by Natasha, and I met Jack, played by Dean, who had gone mad because of suspecting me as a witch. This scene was quite difficult too since the characters possessed various emotions in this single scene. Also, the atmosphere in this scene went tense and this was the key turning point in this whole play. There was another part that I felt hard which was the interaction with Jack here. Since he had gone mad and really wanted to kill me, he ran toward me and choked my neck with anger. When rehearsing this part, we both got hurt due to the furious actions.





<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice and Susan>



<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice, Susan and Jack>

In the second half of the play, the whole atmosphere changed and became horrible.

Women in this play were going to be tortured. This half was the hardest in my opinion since everyone should possess a strong emotion and the complicated relationship between each other. However, I really enjoyed playing the second half because I felt that the stage design,

the light, the props and the actor were all in one and had formed a perfect vibe to make the audience experience the sad and tragic lives of these women.



<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice and Packer>

I really made lots of efforts while rehearsing the dead scene of mine. My monologue was really difficult since it contained complicated emotion. That was Alice's last words to curse those who had hurt her and her family and that also showed her hopelessness because of the betrayal of her best friend and her mother's death.



<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Alice>





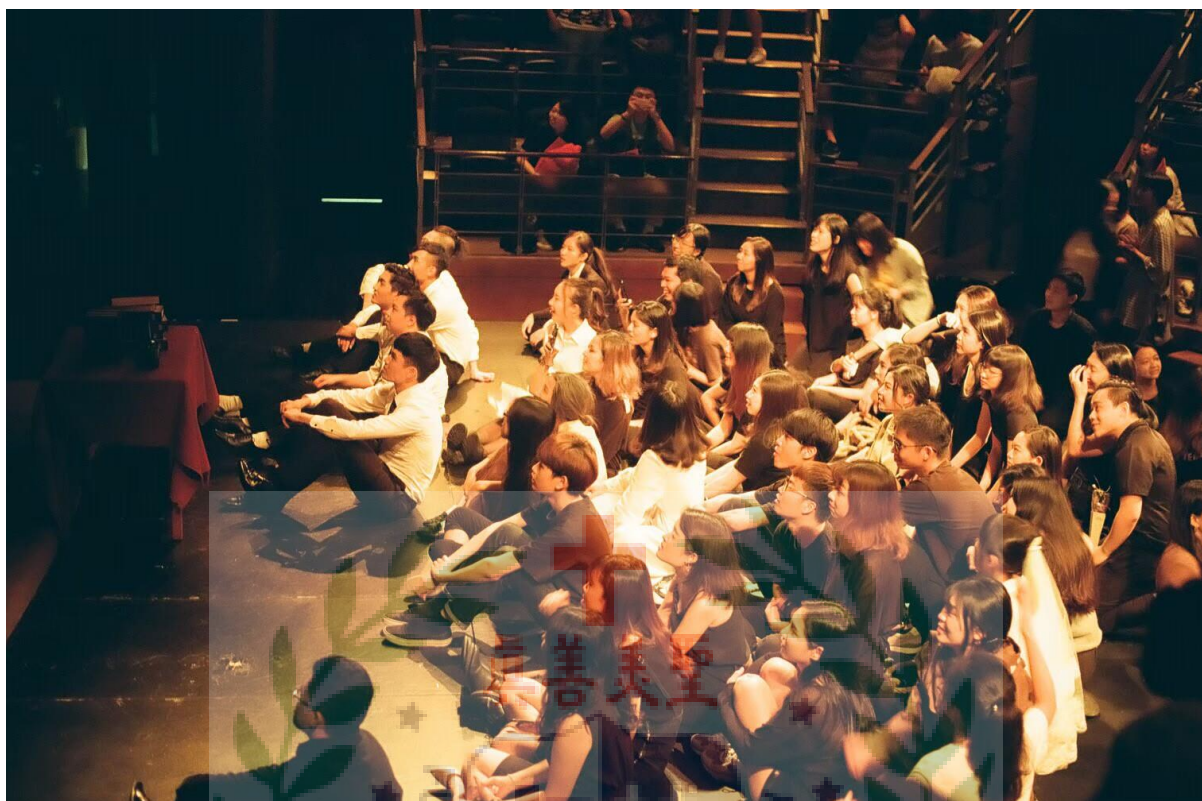
<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Singing *Lament for the witches* >

Unlike being in the chorus, this time I needed to sing alone and dance at the same time. It was pretty hard but I really enjoyed the moment on stage. Acting, singing and dancing with my crew and cast was one of the most precious experiences in my college life.



<2019 Annual Play –*Vinegar Tom* – Singing *Evil Women*>

I would say this is my favorite crew and we were like a real family. We shared all the ups and downs together and overcame all the obstacles together.



<2019 Annual Play – *Vinegar Tom* – Last performance>

