

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
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真善美聖

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

SANCTITAS BONITAS

PULCHRITUDO

VERITAS

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LOD: Annual Play

Dr. John Basourakos

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2019 Annual Play Reflection As the Leader of Costume and Makeup Team

This is my third time working in the costume and makeup team in theatrical productions in the English department but the first time as the team leader. Previously, I have worked on the costume and makeup team on *Everyman* and *The Wonderful World of Dissoica*. At first, I was not too worried about the play because I thought I had enough experience and everything will be carried out easily. After going through the script, I realized that the time setting of the play was set in 1640 in England. However, I have only worked on modern plays before. To understand how village people (peasants) would wear in 1640, we did a lot of work. We need to make a research on the hairstyle and fashion trend in that time period. In the research process, we noticed that fashion spread much slower in villages. Moreover, peasants are not able to afford fancy and nice clothes and they tend to wear darker colors. Then, women will not reveal their hair when they are outside of their houses. When we had a clearer idea of how the costume should be like, we submitted our first draft of costume ideas to the stage managers, the director and our professor. Then, we had a meeting with the them. In this meeting, we would discuss if the costume design fits the personality of each character. Everyone would have a different interpretation of a same play and a same character. Our job is to communicate with everyone and bring out the best version of a character. Costume and makeup can help actors get into character easier. After we receive suggestions from crew and cast members, we would make revisions. Then, we would find

costumes and let the cast members try on. I also need to submit meeting minutes to Dr. John on a weekly basis and two portfolios to him.

Due to our limited budget, we did not rent any costumes from Xi Meng Ding. Instead, we turn to our friends for help and asked for some dresses they would no longer wear. Then, we make some changes to the dress. We made aprons and coif out window curtains. Luckily, we have a friend whose family owns a fabric company and they gave us some free fabrics.



We got the fabric and turn it into a cape.



Top left: The fabric we got for Ellen's cape

Top right: The coif made out of curtains

Bottom left: The cape we made in the end

Bottom right: The apron made out of fabrics we bought.

One of the most difficult problems we had is to make sure every elements on the costumes is already invented in 1640s. Moreover, we have a limited budget and we could not afford to rent costumes from the costume shops. When I was working on *Everyman* last year, costume and makeup team had a total budget of 10,000 dollars. This year, our budget is limited down to 4,000 dollars. To solve this crisis, we bought fabrics from the textile market and made some of the costumes on our own. The second problem we had is we only have a short period of time to change costumes for the actors. We have a lot of actors and they need to change costumes when they act and when they sing. My crew members and I need to work together so we can finish the tasks in the shortest time we have. I made a cue sheet and stick it on the wall so we have a clearer idea of what to do.

The third difficulties we had is that we have a limited time for rehearsals. In each rehearsals, details of costume and makeup team will be revised if they did not match what the stage managers and director wanted to see on stage. The costume again was revised the day before the play. Our crew members took a day off and went to different stores to buy the clothes we needed for the play.

Despite all the difficulties we had, my crew members and I are able to accomplish the tasks without making any mistakes in the end. I am thankful to have Gwen, Angel, Betty and Vivian on my team. We did not have any dispute while working. Everyone is experienced in the theater so we are familiar with our work. This is the most tiring production I have ever joined because we need to find costumes and fabrics all over the city. Angel and I went to a

costume store located in Xi Meng Ding to find a dress. The costume store was filthy and was not spacious. They hung the dresses on the ceilings so we had to shove them out of the way when we walk. After exiting the costume store, Angel and I had an allergy attack because the place was too filthy.

I am also thankful that so many friends came to our rescue and donate makeup products and clothes they would no longer use or wear to us. Vinegar Tom gave me a chance to understand the costume and makeup history of England. I was touched when I saw our hard work presented on stage. It felt like as if I was sent back to 1640 in England; and all of the characters were alive in front of me. I had countless nightmares and was anxious that we would make mistakes or we would not have sufficient time to complete all of the looks. Fortunately, none of these nightmares became true. If I have another chance, I would still join the production again because I had a great time here. Moreover, I am proud of what we have accomplished.



Costume and Makeup pictures on stage:

