

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果  
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**Reflection on Participating in the 2018 Senior Play:**  
*The Wonderful World of Dissocia*

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2018 Senior Play

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### Reflection on 2018 Senior Play—The Wonderful World of Dissocia

In the beginning, I was asked by this play's student director Seven to come to help with the makeup team of this year's senior, in which I happily accepted. This was not my first time participating in a senior play production as I was helping in the public relations team in the last one, but this is my first time designing the makeup and being one of the leaders of a play.

Initially, "The Wonderful World of Dissocia" wasn't the play we planned to do, which was "People, Places, Things." There wasn't much room to experiment with makeup in that play, but in *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, the opposite is the case. *Dissocia* is a land very much like Alice's Wonderland, and there are a lot of characters with quirky personalities and colorful costumes.

It was a challenge to begin with. We had four members in the makeup team (including me), and we only had \$4,000NTD of funds available, which could barely afford any makeup products. I decided to use most of the funds to buy disposable products, because in my opinion the sanitary and safety comes first when it comes to makeup. I don't want any of the actors having an eye infection because of a contaminated mascara or a dirty sponge. We bought disposable mascara wands, disposable eye shadow sticks, makeup sponges, and makeup wipes. Another challenging part is that we are also in charge of the actor's hair, and that's something I'm not really familiar with. Thankfully, we had a team member, Joanna, who knows a

lot about doing hair and she taught us some basic hair knowledge and saved us a lot of trouble.

When we were planning for the play, some of the characters that need creative makeup includes the Oath Taker and her attendants, the goat, the polar bear, and Britney. Initially, we wanted a Cleopatra-inspired eye look for the Oath taker. After several attempts and revisions, we ended up with a look that is a mixture of Cleopatra's thick eyebrows and the eyeshadow and lips of the Queen of Hearts. Natasha, who played the oath taker really pulled off the look successfully in the final performance. Another character that needed creative makeup was the oath taker's attendants. We wanted to create a look includes something tribal, something that can make the audience know that they are in some kind of weird ritual as soon as they came out, so we planned to do a Natalie-Portman-black-swan-inspired eye look. However, we found out that it was challenging to recreate four dramatic eye looks in a short period for the four actors with only black eyeshadow, because we had to layer on the black eyeshadow and blend the colors together. Luckily, we found out a way to achieve this fast and efficient: using water-activated body paint. In this way, we could paint thick black lines on the actor's face in a short amount of time. We also made a mask and a pair of horns for the goat to wear, but we discarded the mask in the end because wearing a mask was too hot for the actor to act on stage. The horns were made out of paper and tape, and then painted black. The results were convincing and satisfying. As for the polar bear, the costume team rented a polar bear suit for the actress, so all we had to do is to paint on a black bear nose. Last but not least, there was Britney, who according to the script was a "trashy-looking Australian girl." We initially planned a very 90s look for Britney: pencil thin brows, dramatic shimmery blue eyeshadow all over the eyelid, and a gradient pink lip with a strong lip liner. We

also wanted her to wear a blonde wig, to achieve the “Australian girl” look. However, it turned out it was not that easy to style a wig. We had two wigs, one was a lace-front wig with more hair, and another was a cosplay wig with bangs. The lace-front wig was a better choice because it looked more realistic, but it needed significantly more time to style it and maintain its shape. We did not have that amount of time and technical ability to style a wig from scratch, so we opted for the cosplay wig. We had Gwen, who played Britney, wear the wig in the first few rehearsals, but it did not turn out great. The wig tangled too easily, and we couldn’t prevent it a hundred percent from malfunctioning on stage, so we had to give it up. We decided to change the blonde hair to the actress’s original hair color in the end, adding a pink hair piece.

This is my first-time designing makeup looks for a play production, and it was not easy as I thought it would be. Because not only do I have to take the character’s description and personality traits into consideration, I also have to look out for the time they have to be on stage. For example, there was a segment of “time flies” where the actors have to do a quick change. I had to remove Natasha’s Oath Taker makeup entirely and reapply the base makeup in just a few minutes. In addition, we can’t use brushes on all the actors because of sanitary concerns, we had to use disposable eyeshadow sticks instead. At first, I was nervous that I wouldn’t be able to blend the eyeshadow without a brush and would thus mess up their makeup, but after the practices of several rehearsals, I was able to do intricate eye looks with just a few disposable eyeshadow sticks. I think one of the most important things I learned in this production is to apply makeup fast and make it show on stage. The stage lights really make the heavy makeup look “natural.” We were all struggling to finish the makeup on time when we started, but when it came to the actual play, we were already so familiar with the looks that we can easily finish doing the looks right on time, if not

earlier.

Not only did I get to practice my makeup skills in this play, I also learned how to communicate and reach for a conclusion with my teammates. Sometimes our ideas are not in the same as the director's ideas, and we have to talk it out. Most of the times people don't know what we're capable of and what we aren't capable of. For example, we can create a lot of looks with our makeup. A 1920s inspired flapper look, a robot, a sad clown, you name it. However, we need ample time and space to achieve the perfect illusion. Sometimes you just can't rush a certain look. And we need space to put our makeup on. Luckily, we resolved all these issues in the end. Another problem we encountered initially was the lighting. We tested the makeup in empty classrooms, the actor's dorm room, and even in the hallway. Frankly, these were not the best places to do makeup, because it's hard to see the model's faces. To do a good job, a brightly distributed light source is needed in the makeup process. Thankfully the makeup room was bright enough for us to do our job.

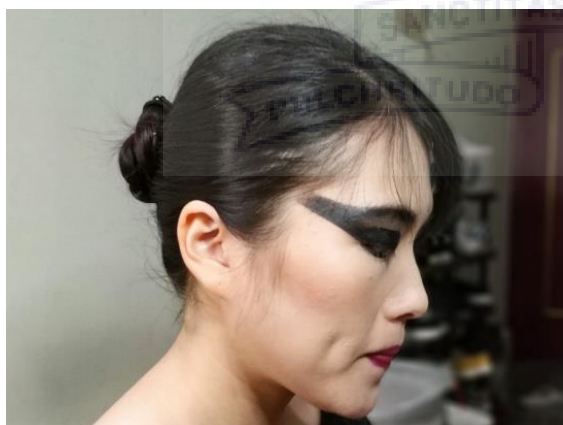
This was a precious and invaluable experience for me in both the English department and my makeup career. Through helping out and working with everyone in the play, I feel like I am a part of this big family. Also, by doing makeup continually on other people for weeks, I really learned how to do makeup faster and more efficient on other people. I think it's a win-win situation. If there are more opportunities in the future, I would love to help out for our department.

	Characters	Actors		Characters	Actors		
A1S1	Lisa	Angel	A2S1	Lisa	Angel		
	Victor	Jim		Nurse 1	Gwen		
A1S2	Lisa	Angel	A2S2	Lisa	Angel		
	Passenger 1	Cara		Nurse 2	Dean		
	Passenger 2	Gwen	A2S3	Lisa	Angel		
	Passenger 3	Jim		Nurse 3	Cara		
	Passenger 4	Jaqueline	A2S4	Lisa	Angel		
A1S3	Lisa	Angel		Nurse 1	Gwen	Jim	Andrea
	Guard 1	Dean				Stanley	
	Guard 2	Stanley	A2S5	Lisa	Angel	Angel	Joanna
A1S4	Lisa	Angel		Nurse 2	Dean	Gwen	
	Guard 1	Dean	A2S6	Lisa	Angel	Cara	Joshua
	Guard 2	Stanley		Nurse 1	Gwen	Natasha	
	Oath Taker	Natasha		Nurse 3	Cara	Dean	Maicy
	OA 1	Jim	A2S7	Lisa	Angel	Jaqueline	
	OA 2	Gwen		Nurse 3	Cara		
	OA 3	Jaqueline	A2S8	Lisa	Angel		
	OA 4	Cara		Dr Clark	Natasha		
A1S5	Lisa	Angel	A2S9	Lisa	Angel		
	Guard 1	Dean		Nurse 2	Dean		
	Guard 2	Stanley	A2S10	Lisa	Angel		
A1S6	Lisa	Angel		Nurse 1	Gwen		
	Goat	Dean	A2S11	Lisa	Angel		
	Jane	Cara		Dot	Jaqueline		
	Polar Bear	Jaqueline	A2S12	Lisa	Angel		
A1S7	Vince's voice						
	Lisa's Voice						
A1S8	Britney	Gwen					

Our makeup and hair cue sheet.



Me painting Natasha for the Oath Taker character



Gwen's makeup for the oath taker's attendants