

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 2019 Senior Play: *Golden Child***

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LOD – 2019 SP Reflection

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2019 Senior Play Reflection

Marc Jacobs, the world-famous American fashion designer once said, “To me, clothing is a form of self-expression – there are hints about who you are in what you wear.” Indeed, we can get a hint of one’s personality or preference from how a person dresses. One’s outfit can convey many messages, such as the color and style the person likes. Whenever people want to give others a great impression, they always want to dress up. Clothing is one of the crucial parts of our everyday life, and it is also a philosophy of life.

People can never perform without costumes when it comes to a play, drama, or show. Like Marc Jacob said, costumes bring people personality. Besides bringing characteristics, costumes can also give audiences a hint of the background information of the play. For example, the period of the story and the identity of the character. Plus, if the characters wearing the costume that does not match the play's background details, it will be hard for audiences to get involved in the plot. Let’s take

Chinese epic films, for example, if those actor and actress were not wearing the costumes that fit the time of the story, the whole movie would present an awkward and fake atmosphere for the audiences. The choice of costumes is so crucial that many plots cannot make sense if there is a lack of the proper choice of costumes. Think about the Disney princess Cinderella, the differences between a gorgeous princess and a poor little girl are one pretty dress and a pair of glass heels.

When I first joined the costume and makeup crew, I was thinking the duty of this group is way easier compared to the lighting and sound effect crew. However, I was wrong. Since the background story of the play is based on Chinese society around 1920. When we think about what women dress back then, we simply assume that they would wear cheongsam(qipao). When we think about qipao, we usually instantly picture the one-piece elegant dress that we saw in movies. Yet, when we check the historical background and study how people dress back then, we found out that they wearing the shirt with the pattern we usually see on qipao along with a black long skirt. The reason is that qipao is sexualized back then, during a time when the social atmosphere was relatively conservative, qipao is inadequate for traditional women with good manners to wear. Deciding the costume for the characters was not as easy as I thought. There are so many details to take care of, not just simply give them what we assume would fit the characters.



Costumes

Besides carefully studying the background history of the play, many details make the process of preparing the costumes more difficult. When it comes to the costume, we tried our best to keep everything as real as possible. However, some details are really hard to present, for example, the custom foot binding. There was no way we bind the foot of the actresses. We had to find a way to make the foot binding looked persuasive, and let the audiences able to tell that white fabrics wrapping around their ankle are foot binding. To make the foot binding looks real, we need to make sure the white fabrics would not fall and wrap properly around their ankle. Since there are many scenes that the characters need to change their outfit constantly in a short time, the foot binding part was the most difficult and terrifying part for us.

Luckily, we managed to make it persuasive and the fabric never falls off their ankle on the stage.

The time in the theatre was like the movie mission impossible for us. I remember the week before the play, the director was not satisfying with Tieng-Bin's glasses. We had to find another pair of glasses for Howard. We tried so hard to find the style that the director wanted, and we rushed into the city for about a week to find it. When we finally found it, there was another problem, which is Howard is near-sighted. The special style glasses cannot fit his diopters, so we had to give up and use his glasses. All of us were upsetting about the glasses because the one we found indeed gives the character a better feature, however, this is something we had to compromise.

Another mission-impossible-like thing that happened during the play was the changing time of Sui-Yong. In the latter scene when she was dead and turning into a ghost, there were only 45 seconds for us to change her qipao costume into the ghost robe. We sent four people to get her undressed and dress her up again backstage. All of us were in a rush, two of us are responsible for taking off her cloth, another takes off her accessories and foot binding, and the last person in charge of her hairstyle. Besides, take off her original costume, we all assigned to put on certain parts of her ghost costume. Forty-five seconds, we change her from an elegant Chinese woman

into a ghost, we all felt like the F1 pit crew.



The Backstage

All in all, the process of preparing for Senior Play was an exhausted but fruitful experience during my time in Fu Jen English Department. Woke up in the early morning and stay until the last MRT departure just to attend the rehearsal and help the actors and actresses change their costume. Rushing around in the city just to find the best outfit for the characters before rehearsals. As an English major, we all know that we have so much homework to do every day, not to mention that most of us have part-time jobs. Every single day during the preparation of the play was hustle and bustle, but the outcome is always fruitful. The moment I saw the actors and actresses wearing the costume we picked and surprising the audiences with their

impressive acting skills, I know all the hard works pay off – totally worth it. Join the crew is one of the best experiences in my college life.



Costume and Makeup Crew