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**Reflection on Participating in
the 2020 Annual Play: *Frozen***

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LOD - 2020 Annual Play

Reflection of 2020 Annual Play *Frozen*

In the 2020 Annual Play *Frozen*, I played Nancy, a mother whose daughter was killed by a serial killer. This was my first time in the theatre, and it had been a wonderful and challenging journey for me. The process of exploring, understanding, analyzing, and finally acting as Nancy, was very unforgettable. I had grown and learned a lot through acting and working with these incredible and creative people. The results and all the feedback were all worth our four-month dedication to this play and theatre.



Figure 1. The crew of *Frozen*

I struggled a lot whether to attend the audition for the cast or not at first. I became a big fan of theatre after watching all of the plays that our seniors had produced and started to have interest in theatre and acting. However, since I had no experience about joining in theatre and knew nothing about acting, it had been a difficult time for me to decide whether to audition for the cast or not. To pluck up my courage to attend the audition, my friends and my family provided me with a lot of support and helped me build up my confidence. I was very grateful and appreciated their help. Without them, I would not be able to explore this journey and enjoy everything that happened in the theatre.



Figure 2. Scene two. Nancy is providing the information about herself and her family while doing housework.

Frozen is a play about loss, desperation, remorse, forgiveness, and growth. Each character in this play had their own background stories. Nancy was a mother. One of her daughters, Rhona, was killed by a serial killer, Ralph. In the play, Nancy had experienced the sorrow of losing her daughter. She was hopeful at first, and she believed that Rhona was not

dead and would be back someday. She even became the co-founder of an organization called “Flame,” which the purpose was about helping the families who also suffered from children missing and helping them find their children back. Nevertheless, the police found Rhona’s body and revealed the truth to Nancy that the murderer was Ralph. Nancy was very depressed and remorseful because the place where Ralph buried Rhona was very close to her place and she had passed there many times. Her heart was frozen. She was regretful about the truth that she could not do anything for Rhona, and she lived with the regrets for almost twenty years. In the later part of the play, Ingrid, Rhona’s sister, could not stand this situation any more. She wanted to move on and grab Nancy out of the darkness. Nancy was upset and inapprehensible about Ingrid. She could not understand how come Ingrid could let go of her sister so easily and how it was possible for them to forgive Ralph. “Forgive that monster? I can’t do that. How can I do that? It’s too much. It’s too much. It’s too much.” This line was given by Nancy after talking with Ingrid about forgiving Ralph. However, after reflecting about Ingrid’s words, she started to accept Rhona’s death and wanted to move on since she had ignored Ingrid for years and had been in this situation for too long. She went to see Ralph’s psychiatrist and Ralph. She wanted to know the reason why Ralph killed her daughter so that she could understand his situation and forgive him. In my opinion, I think Nancy did forgive Ralph, but she would never forget what had happened to her, to Rhona, to Ingrid, and even to Ralph himself. Nancy forgave and moved on in the end.

To interpret Nancy’s sorrow, desperation, and her spiritual transformation and growth was the most difficult part for me. First of all, to get into the character, I had done a lot of practices and analysis. I watched some similar movies, *such as The Lovely Bones*, to try to figure out and to understand the parents’ reactions about losing daughters. To watch them acting was easy; however, to actually act those feelings was totally a different thing. I had been through a difficult time about acting for a long time since I had never been through such

a heartbreaking pain; moreover, I was not a mother, It was hard for me to relate those feelings. Thanks to our directors, Natasha and Michelle, they both were very professional and had a lot of experiences about acting. They had helped me a lot during the process and finally I think I successfully portrayed the emotions on stage.



Figure 3. Scene Seven. Ingrid is telling Nancy about her bad dreams.

Frozen had influenced my life, my mindset, and my knowledge a lot. During the four-month, in an attempt to convey Nancy's sorrow, I was also influenced by those negative emotions a lot. I cried a lot while acting on stage and rehearsing down stage. At that time, it was hard for me to recognize whether I was sad about Nancy's situation or just unsatisfied with my performances. After each rehearsal, I would receive various comments from the directors and some seniors. I learned a lot from those feedback but was also influenced by them negatively. However, those feelings, emotions, comments all became the elements that force and push me to grow as me myself and as Nancy. In order to build up characters and make them become more real to the audience, I also tried a lot of things I had never tried

before. For example, smoking (with no fire), which was very new and challenging for me. I was grateful to this experience, because it not only made me become stronger, but also helped me cultivate more interest in theatre.



Figure 4. Scenethirteen. Nancy smoking.

The results, including the audience's feedback, of the three days of showtime showed that all of our dedication to this play was worth it. There were many audience members touched and cried while watching our performances. Me and our crew members were very glad that our audience liked our performance and could resonate with the storyline and the characters.

Participating in the *Frozen* crew was one of the most memorable experiences for me. I improved my acting skills and stepped out of my comfort zone through analyzing characters and rehearsing. I learned how to deal with my negative emotions and to transform them into the motivations for me to move on. It was interesting for me to explore Nancy's life, emotions, her inner side, and finally her transformation. *Frozen* and Nancy had changed me

in various aspects of my life. Thanks to this opportunity, I was able to feel, to understand, to grow, and to act.



Figure 5. Scene nineteen. Nancy and Ingrid went to see Rhona's bones.



Figure 6. Scene twenty one. Nancy asks Agnatha whether she can meet with Ralph or not.



Figure 7. Scene twenty five. Nancy meets Ralph.



Figure 8. Cast! Dino, Alice, me, and YuHan.