

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 2023

指導教授：劉雪珍老師  
Prof. Cecilia Liu

**Reflection on Participating in the 2022 Senior Play-  
*Noises off***

學生：陳毓承撰  
Fillan Yu-Cheng Chen

## Learning Outcome Demonstration

408110285

Fillan Chen

“I have a housekeeper, but this is her afternoon off, so we’ve got the place entirely to ourselves.” Worry, excitement, sadness, and loneliness, are all that I can feel before stepping on the stage. It was not the first time for me to act in the public. However, that kind of feeling still haunts me when I woke up for rehearsing every day at that time.



“Do you want to be a part of the Senior Play when you are in your senior year?” said Henry, my best friend. “No, it is just tedious to perform on stage. Besides, you know how bad I am about remembering those lines”, I said. After two years, we all participated in the Senior Play, Henry was the head of the Art-Design Team and I was the actor. We both wanted to create some memory and leave no regret before graduating.

The major difference between senior play and annual play is that senior play is

majorly directed by students, and the roles of the teachers in senior play was more like consultants. In the annual play, the teacher plays a more important role in directing and deciding the style of the settings. Therefore, in Senior Play students have more autonomy when it comes to deciding the styles of the play and thinking out of the box.

Senior Play has been seen as a bridge to connect us with the school brothers and sisters since in Senior Play we must work together to produce a complete play. Every team has its own challenges that they have to conquer. For example, the Property team, which I was in charge of last year, has to prepare the setting and props for every single scene. In addition, they have to alter the setting according to the director's opinion even though there is only ten days before the performance. The Publicity Team promotes and raises money for the play. As to the actors, we have to perform on stage. Yes, all we have to do is to perform the script on stage. It may be the most straightforward job in the play. However, the process before performing on stage was difficult and exhausting.

I still can recall the mood that I first finished reading the script. I was really surprised by the director since Garry really fitted my personality. He always stutters when he talked. He whiners, and he was straightforward. To be honest, Garry and I were really alike so that it did not take me a long time to fit into the character.

However, there were still challenges when I tried to act this character out. Since *Noises off* was a “play within a play”, which means that almost everyone must act as another character in the play, the director wanted us to use different voices and tones

to talk to differentiate *Nothing on* and *Noises off*. However, that was really challenging since we have to not only understand the differences between the two characters but switch between two voices smoothly. It was a pity that I did not achieve it.

Garry is a character that is easily triggered and has some persistence in acting. One can observe it when Garry has some opinion of Lloyd, the director, several times when they were rehearsing. He respected the director but was not satisfied with the other actors' manner toward the play. Garry thought other actors did not pay enough attention to this performance since they even did not remember which scene they should show up on the stage.

In the play, Garry has a relationship with one of the actresses in the crew, Dotty, who is much elder than him. However, Dotty tried to flirt with Fredrick in order to attract Garry's attention. Therefore, in the second scene, Garry couldn't help his anger and tried to catch Fredrick and fought him. In the last scene, everything is out of order and Garry was the one who tried very hard to put everything on the right track.

Although he failed, the play still came to a happy ending.

Among the three acts, I thought Act 2 was the most difficult one since there are too many emotions blended into this act. First is the anger and envy that Garry felt after witnessing Fredrick and Dotty touching each other. Garry turned from angry to not understanding what was happening and tried to Dotty with her. In addition, actors have to act within the front scene and the back scene. And the timing control was also crucial since some of the laughing points was about opening and closing of the doors.

The first day is the most terrifying for me. Before opening the door on stage, I was frightened and nervous. Nonetheless, after hearing the key sound and the background music “*The ghetto*”. I could convince myself that “I am Roger and I am Garry”. While I was acting Roger, I could feel myself walking with confidence and talking like an exuberant house agent. While I was acting Garry, I could also stutter and looked a little bit not so agreed with the director’s instructions.

Even though I still missed some lines on stage but I could act what I want to act with confidence at that moment. I knew that I was into the character. What makes me feel fortunate was that the audience really liked our performance very much. It seems that the laughter never stopped from the beginning of the play to the end on the first day of the performance. That really gave us a surprise and boosted our confidence.

Every time I practiced, I was so afraid that I did not act better than yesterday or that I did not remember the little places that the director told me to notice beforehand. With

the date of the formal performance approaching, my nervousness gets serious. I started to relate to Garry’s feelings since I could feel the team at that time was a plate of sand that still could not meet the director’s demands. However, the three-day performances really amazed me since the spontaneous reactions they react were hilarious, and laughed the audience out of their chair. At that time, I was proud of us.

We did it.



If anyone asked me “What part did I like the best throughout the senior play?” I would definitely say the dress rehearsal. In the dress rehearsal, the atmosphere was intense because no one wants to make mistakes during this formal and final rehearsal. However, it was this kind of intense atmosphere that we could feel everyone has done their best on doing the performance right. The Lighting team tried to adjust every light to its perfect color. The Sound Effect team did its best to play the right music on time. The stage manager sent the cues at the right time. And we, the actors, did our best to perform on stage. I think the feelings are similar to the Japanese proverb, “One encounter, one chance”. I still could remember our feelings at that time.

I would never forget the moment the actors took the curtain call, the moment the applause sounded, and the moment that the whole crew stood on stage and gave applause to everyone who put effort into *Noises off*. Without you, this performance would not be so impressive.

