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

SANCTITAS BONITAS

PULCHRITUDO

VERITAS

學生：施暄柔撰

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2022 Senior Play

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Looking back to the days we spent preparing for the senior play, I think I have learned quite a lot of things that can help me throughout my entire life. I am one of the actresses this year, which is different from my previous experience. It's my fourth time participating in drama production, but it's my first time being an actress. In the past, I used to be on the makeup team. But this year, I decided that I would like to try something new, something challenging. That's why I participate in the audition. Luckily, I was chosen to be one of the cast this year. However, I am completely lost at the beginning. In fact, most of the actors and even the director herself have no experience in drama production.

Noises off is a comedy that is so famous that there are several different versions of the play and even a movie version of it on the Internet. When I first saw the script, I was rather surprised since our department has been putting on tragedies for several years. Besides, we might be compared to the other versions of *Noises off*. It more or less burdens the whole team.

The character I was assigned is Belinda. After reading the script, I think I share some similarities with her. Belinda has a warm-hearted and delighted character. She is a bit

controlling over certain people. In the play, she is mainly filling the loopholes caused by other characters in order to maintain the show. As I mentioned earlier, the character and I share some similarities. Therefore, I think the best way to play the character is to put emphasis on these characteristics and try to think of every motivation behind the character's behavior. At first, I was merely following stage directions. However, after I figure out the storyline and discuss it with the other actors and director, acting and reacting to other actors' acting became much easier for me. Remembering the script is also an important thing to acting. Luckily, my lines are mostly short. After understanding the storylines, I remembered the lines easily. Through practice, I also learned that it is important to make connections between plots and events. Actors have to make these things clear in order to help the audience understand the story.

One feature of *Noises Off* is that it is a story within a story. *Noises Off* is about putting on a play called *Nothing On*. What's more, act two of the play is the backstage of *Nothing On*. Most of the stage directions are actions. Actors can only use gestures and facial expressions to act because normally, actors need to stay quiet backstage. I think it is one of the most difficult parts for me. I spent a lot of time thinking of ways to improve my acting. Besides, in *Noises Off*, there are nine characters, which is a lot. Thus, understanding the relationships and connections is also important to put on a successful play. There are several love triangles in the play. For instance, Dotty, Garry, and Frederick and another group,

Brooke, Poppy, and Lloyd. These love triangles affect the plots a lot. Actors should also pay attention to these relationships when improvising. Apart from that, most of Belinda's scenes are with Frederick. In some of the scenes, they are a couple. My way of acting this out is to imagine the person I like is in front of me, for instance, Benedict Cumberbatch. This can help act out the feelings naturally and more vividly.

Nevertheless, even though we had been practicing for the play for months accidents are nearly inevitable. Two days before the performance, I accidentally fell off the stairs when I was practicing for the play. What's worse, I was wearing high heels at that time. I felt extremely frustrated at that time. Luckily, after seeing the doctor and following his order, I was able to act normally. Another accident happened on the first day. At the beginning of act two, there is a scene where two characters tug a bottle of wine. However, they dropped the wine and the liquid spilled all over the stage. I felt panic at the moment, but I also know that we have to get through it all altogether. Fortunately, we have a mop on the stage as props, so as I walk on the stage acting, I mopped the liquid while acting. That's when I understand why we have to be extremely familiar with the script. This way, we can spare our minds to put up with emergencies and improvise.

But that's not the only emergency on day one. At the end of act one, one of the actors had a problem changing his costume. But we improvised some lines to fill the terrible pause. I think teamwork plays a rather vital part in this experience. We may not be the best group of

actors, but by helping each other, we all gained valuable experience.

Another important skill I learned from this year's senior play is cooperation and communication. I used to think I am a good team player, however, through working on the play, I found that there are several parts I can improve. First of all, I should stand in others' shoes. When people are under pressure, it is more likely for them to lose their patience. One thing we have to keep in mind is that we are all putting effort in order to achieve a common goal. Even though one makes some mistakes, we should know that he or she might already try their best to complete the show. Second, I should be more careful with word choices. As I mentioned before, during such circumstances, if we say something wrongly, it could easily lead to arguments and thus cause misunderstandings. These things would stop a team from functioning properly.

In conclusion, I think being a part of the senior play is one of the most memorable experiences in my college life. It's one of the biggest activities in our department. A group of people working on the same thing. It's a feeling that I will never forget. Through senior play, I get to be familiar with some people I seldom see in the department and I also made some friends that share the same interests.

I would like to thank the people who accompany me along this journey. The property team spent lots of time preparing the props. Each play has a different emphasis. In last year's senior play, it was light. As for *Noises Off*, it is property. We have stairs, a second floor, and

countless small properties. Without them, it is impossible to put on the play. Besides, Amy, our stage director has helped me a lot throughout the production. When I had a problem remembering my lines, she even made time between her busy schedule to practice with me.

She always encouraged me when I lost my confidence. I am really thankful for having her by my side. Also, other actors and actresses. Before this activity, I have already befriended some of them. But during the days we spent together practicing, we helped each other become better performers. I am proud to be a part of such a great team. The feelings and experiences I had through this production are unforgettable. Lastly, I am glad that I plucked up the courage to participate in the audition.

