

Response Paper

In my university in Taiwan, before we graduate, we have to perform a graduation play. It is a tradition in our school. Our college is a language school. There are five departments, English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese. Students in each department need to use the language to present a play.

My graduation play was presented in 2015. I was in charge of doing make up for the main character. We spent almost one year preparing the show. Everything was new for us, because we did not have any experience and knowledge of the theater, neither did teachers. Students had to ask students who had already done the play and the professional teacher outside of the school who had helped students with the play before. The script, clothing, music, light, and props, we had to do all of these by ourselves, so it was a big challenge for us.

The graduation plays are big events in October and November. Watching the show live is one of my favorite things, so I always go to watch the shows. By watching a lot plays, I realized that I am interested in the theater. Because of these experiences, I really want to know more about the theater, so when I came to BVU, I planned to take the class of Introduction to the Theater. However, because of the class time I did not take the course, instead I took the Production and Performance I. In my school, we do not have the credit for preparing the play. It is required. Therefore, I am

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happy to hear that I can get the credit by helping the play in BVU.

By taking this class, it let me learn more about how people prepare the play. In previous experience, I did not have the chance to make the props, so it is my first time to learn how to make them. When I came to the shop, I saw many tools, woods, cloth, and equipment. I was surprised because everything looked professional to me. The most memorable experience for me was that I tried to use an electric drill to screw the wood together. It was my first time to use it. The electric drill is heavy and hard to control. I was afraid of destroying the wood. Fortunately, everything was going well. Other things I did in the 12 hours are moving the props, wood, cleaning up and organizing the cellophanes. In fact, I really want to do painting, but when I went to the shop, professor did not assign me to do that, so it was a big pity to me. Time passed fast, finally, we finished all the props, and it is the time to present the show.

The play was good. It was cool to see the props that I made on the stage. During the three hours, I was focusing on the play and guessing who the murderer was, but language was a big barrier to me. Actors speak so fast, sometime I do not understand what they are talking about. However, by their body language, I can still know the plot. In the end of the play, I was surprised that his wife was the murderer. I cannot believe that the jealousy made her killed her husband, so I did not get the right answer until the last second. Moreover, when I was watching the play, one thing that I was

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curious about was why there was no background music during the show. In my opinion, music can help audience understand the plot easily, and make the play more vivid. If there were background music, the show would be better. However, over all, I enjoyed the play.

After I watched “The Hollow”, I realized that this play is similar to our graduation play. Our play was performing the script of “Death Trap”. It is a murder and mystery story. I think recently people like to watch the mystery and scary plot, so that is why we both chose the same type of play. (HaHaHa)

I am attracted by the theater, because you can feel the emotion. It is not like the movie or the TV, you have to watch the play in person, and then you can understand the power of the stage. Therefore, during the spring break, I went to New York to watch the show, “The Lion King”. It was the great show that I have never seen before. The actors, the props, the music, the changing of the light, and the plot, all of them are amazing. That sudden, I think if I could choose my major again, I would like to choose the major related to the theater. I do not want to be an actor on the stage, but a person behind the stage. It makes me feel fulfilled when I help a performance succeed.

In conclusion, what I have learned from both experiences is that cooperation is important for a successful play. Everyone is important. I am happy to see my name on

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the program list. It makes me feel that I am part of the play. I am happy to be here, and take this course. I learned that we can use our body to measure. Our body is just like a natural ruler. Moreover, Professor showed a special fabric to us. If you spread the water on the fabric, the color will be changed. Therefore, depending on the different situation, we can present different effects by using this fabric. These are the new things I learned in this class. If I have had more time to be here, I would have learned more knowledge from you.

- I want to share our play to you, so I put the picture here. 😊





The graduation plays that I saw during 5 years when I studied in my school.
(These are the tickets.)

