

Performance Abstracts

Abigail Brown, Lauren Scott, Evelyn Van Houten, Bethany Guzman (Mentor: Neena McLain)

Under the Floorboards

Under the Floorboards is an adaptation of Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allen Poe with a twist! We enter the narrator's mind as she seeks deliverance from 'the eye' that has dominated and abused its privilege for far too long. A murder has been committed. You know who did it. So do I. Let them tell you about it. This is a story told from the perspective of the narrator's inner world set in the modern world. We are able to hear the inner workings of the marginalized. A one act play suitable for stage or visual media – it deals with power, retribution, dominance and justice.

Aubri Prestridge (Mentor: Neena McLain)

Role of a Stage Manager in a Performance

Stage management is a crucial aspect of theater. It involves overseeing and coordinating all stage production aspects and ensuring everything runs smoothly and according to plan. Stage managers work closely with directors, producers, designers, and other production staff in pre-production to plan and organize rehearsals, schedules, and technical requirements. Stage managers create and maintain prompt books containing detailed notes about blocking, cues, and other important information. Prompt books are used throughout the show's process to help maintain the organization of the show. During the rehearsal process, stage managers help facilitate the director's vision by ensuring that actors are in the right place at the right time, managing props and set pieces, and recording any changes or notes made during the process. They also coordinate with technical teams to integrate lighting, sound, and other elements into rehearsals. Stage managers oversee technical rehearsals, the time when all technical elements (such as lighting, sound, and special effects) are integrated into the performances. They ensure that cues are executed correctly and that everyone is clear on responsibilities. During performances, stage managers call cues, ensure actors and crew members are ready, and deal with unexpected issues. They communicate with backstage crew members via headsets or other communication devices to keep the production running smoothly. After performances, stage managers may lead post-show discussions, provide feedback to the production team, and assist with strikes (the process of dismantling the set and cleaning up the performance space). Overall, stage management requires excellent organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills and the ability to remain calm under pressure. Stage managers ensure that productions and events are successful and enjoyable for performers and audiences.

Joe Caton, Grant Pike, Mason Scott, Tashaja Gonzales, Wesley Horn (Mentor: Neena McLain)

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A freshly deceased woman suffers the shock, horror, and incompetence of a hastily-ordered fate after breaking several movie theater taboos. Under the decree of three shadowy individuals, her past crimes are recalled and amends are attempted in this comedy about posthumous consequences, illicit sweets, and the mother of a Very Important Prophecy.

Sean Schaefer, Abigail Brown, Babak Akavan, Alexis Sanchez (Mentor: Neena McLain)

The Bargain

When you sell your soul, Dan is the demon who comes to collect. But things aren't as simple as that - especially if evil coworkers object to working overtime, people don't respect a cool trench coat, and worst of all, the doomed mortal has a cat.

Nathaniel Griffin, Babak Akavan, Alexis Sanchez, Evelyn Van Houten (Mentor: Neena McLain)

The Chocolate Affair

The Chocolate Affair by Stephanie Alison Walker Beverly checks herself into a seedy motel room to be alone with a plastic pumpkin filled with Halloween candy in this ten-minute comedy about body image, motherhood and one woman trying desperately to "have it all."

Abigail Ewing, Gabriel Pyenta, Luis Rueda (Mentor: Neena McLain)

Accents Inc.

A snotty dialect coach guides students through an unorthodox training session in accents. This bombastic teacher uses irregular teaching methods as memory techniques to retain information in this high-energy comedy.

Luis Rueda, Wesley Horn, Mason Scott, Grant Pike (Mentor: Neena McLain)

All About Biffo

(Comedy, a nod to "All About Eve," a young, brash clown threatens the alpha status of an older clown.)

Zain Hargrove, Gabe Pyenta, Quinn Griffin, Rudy Flores, Mason Scott, Cassidy Cudd, Evelyn Van Houten, Babak Akavan, Trent Allen (Mentor: Neena McLain)

Tis not me she loves

“Tis Not Me She Loves” by Steven Stack and directed by Zain Hargrove – The Feud between the Hatplains and the McCroys has been in a slump. Both families agree to reignite the feud by creating a forbidden love between Julia and Romero. However, they are not in love. It is a melodramatic comedy that’s half Romeo and Juliet and half Hatfields and McCoys.

Suellyn Hunter, Ayden McKinney, Cassidy Cudd, Lee Neighbours (Mentor: Neena McLain)

Some Assembly Required

A 10-minute play written by Ruben Carbajal. It’s about a couple who are trying to build an IKEA desk. But even though there are instructions, IKEA audibles, and customer service at their disposal. One mistake could end in deadly disaster when their ‘desk’ turns into a killer robot.