

Honor's Capstone Reflective Critique

My honors capstone project was completed last December through a concert reading of "The Oregon Trail". Overall, this was a fantastic process. I got to complete a dream of mine: fully directing a musical rather than just a play or assistant directing. This process was long and very hard. I have been discussing this project with my advisor since my sophomore year. A lot went into planning this and I spent most of the fall semester in a rehearsal room trying to create a complete project. I would not trade the time I spent on this project for anything because not only did I have a beautiful project in the end I also had long lasting friendships with my cast and advisor.

However, this process has made me realize a lot about myself and others. If I could go back and change something it would be to choose someone, I trust more rather than someone who actively showed interest in this project. For my music director, she reached out to help me. I said sure I would love for you too because it would be great on both of our resumes. She was my friend, so I expected her to come with everything ready and prepared for her first music rehearsal. However, this was not the case. As soon as I got the materials I made a one drive with all the materials that I shared with my cast, creative team, and my advisor. This had the sheet music in it and when my music director showed up to the first rehearsal she told the whole cast that she just got the music yesterday (she had the music for as long as I had the script). Overall, this situation taught me a lot about myself and who to trust.

Other than working with her I had an amazing time. My choreographer was amazing and listened to me when I had things to say. My cast was very caring, and when I would need to try things out a couple of times or make up for when our music director came in unprepared, they were there ready to help me because they wanted this show to succeed as much as I did. Also, I listened to them and what felt right to them while blocking. Through this I learned how much of a collaborative process this is. Everyone needs to be 100% in it for a show to work.

Also, I learned when I need to have a final say in something. There were many situations with the music director where she tried to have the final say in a situation whether it was casting or how the music should sound where I had to step up and say I am sorry you feel this way but this is how I need it to be to work with this show. Also, I learned to advocate for myself. When choosing this musical, I had to be very open in the theatre department. I came with 3 musicals I would love to do and pitched them to my theatre advisor. Once the one that worked best for the theatre department was chosen the conversation of where to perform it was discussed many, many times. I have always been conscious when I said no to something. I did not want to sound like I was a brat. However, I learned sometimes, if you say no in a situation, you will seem stronger than ever before.

To put an end to my project, I loved the final product, the relationships I have gained, and the things I have learned about myself throughout it. I think this project was a reality check for what I have signed up for with my degree. Putting so much effort into a project

makes the project turn out better than a person could imagine. I would not trade those late nights for anything. I also would not have been able to complete any of this without the help of the honors college.