

*Make a Wish* Remastered

The performance for *Make a Wish*, was spectacular. When I first created my two chair scene, I was not very inspired. However, as I began to develop the characters and their situation, I began to get excited. I could imagine my actors onstage, living out the role of Laura and Kit, and wondering if it would be different than my interpretation. I didn't think it would be, thinking that I had described the characters clearly enough (maybe too much) and there wouldn't be much wiggle room. However, the result was a complete surprise, a great one. I had met with one of my actors, of course, and talked about the characters in different lights, but somehow still didn't see it coming as a whole.

The story was originally about an imaginary friend and a little girl, who is oblivious to how her moving on and growing up is hurting her imaginary friend. The last line, as the imaginary friend leaves, is "I'll make sure they turn out just like you." This is showing that the imaginary friend, Kit, is moving on and is saying a bittersweet goodbye. However, my actors saw a double meaning in the script and jumped on it. Instead of the sweet girl and caring friend, the script could also read as a spoiled, rotten kid who is taking their friend for granted and the imaginary friend is hurt and a little bitter about the break up. I loved it, even how the last line had a perfect double meaning I never saw before, making it seem like their last goodbye was an insult to the little girl. I'm so glad that they acted it this way, even better than how I wrote it to be.

My actors were great. They were enthusiastic and passionate, delivering their lines on time and memorized. There was a lot of fast back and forth in my play, and I was really impressed with the tension they built up with their interactions. They even yelled at each other

on stage! I was very engaged the whole time and couldn't look away. I was impressed with Haley especially, because her role as Laura was difficult in my opinion and she did a great job mastering it. Overall, their chemistry as actors on stage was amazing and I can't think of any possible criticisms for them.

I feel like I gave the actors the support they needed. I texted Haley and met with her one morning, where we discussed the script. We talked about whether or not there needed to be any changes made to the script or if it should be interpreted in different ways. I kept up with them until the performance and thanked them afterwards. They were really great to me as well, letting me know what they liked about the play and how they were going to act it out. I think our relationship as playwright and cast was a model of what the assignment wanted and I would love to do it again with these actors.

Looking back on this project, I wish I had had more inspiration when writing the original script. I liked the idea of using two chairs but didn't come up with a script that utilized these props to their greatest extent. The actors used them somewhat differently than I expected, too, but not different enough to change anything. I also wish I had come up with something more emotionally charged or elaborate, like I did for scholastics and some of the other compositions I've created this year.

My progress as a writer and participating in and outside of this class has really developed my scope of ideas, so I didn't feel as though this was one of my best. Working on the *When Bright Through Window Comes* set and reading it in class when it was still being written was really eye opening for me to see the paper to stage aspect of playwriting, and I also see that in this assignment. I can see how in some areas I should have been more precise with how I used

stage directions and how in other ways I may have been too precise. In the end, if I had a choice to do this project all over again, I would love to pour my creativity into a powerful script and have as great of actors as I did for *Make a Wish*. However, I'm very happy with how the performance turned out and proud that I had a hand in creating it.