

Drama E-Portfolio

Storytelling:

Task 4

This unit of storytelling by far has been the best experience I have ever had. I managed to discover a newfound passion for expressing myself out loud through the stories I usually enjoyed to think about in my head, and it was magical. I had never thought of storytelling to be more than the simple reciting of a story, but during this unit I managed to understand that storytelling was a way for people to bring out the aspects of a story that could not be imagined and help people become one with the characters and enter into the land that the story introduced.

There is a lot that I have learnt through storytelling as after I had realised that there was more to it than I had first thought, during my criterion A I researched and discovered people that did storytelling for a living – and they were fantastic. I began to become inspired by the likes of Jan Blake to Louis CK, discovering the different kinds of storytelling and the different things that different people used it to bring out. Through the research and information that I gathered in my Criterion A, I was able to completely understand the different things I would attempt to incorporate into my performances. I developed new skills, voice projection and sound effects from Jan Blake, which I used thoroughly in my task 2. In my task 2, I was narrating the story of a young girl who was cursed and who ended up killing the love of her life and eventually herself. I took in the role as a third person omniscient character, and the aspects that I inherited from Jan Blake were the movements and motions I recreated as I told them, the insights into the minds of the different characters and the effect of tonal variation from loud echoed sounds to soft whispers.

While coming up with the story I took into account the things that defined me, we all have aspects of ourselves that we related directly to our personalities. With this I began to think about the things that terrify me, losing everyone you loved because of something that you caused but cannot control, the feeling of being completely and

utterly helpless in a situation because you can't mess with fate. I used these aspects to build a story based on loves and losses, with the recurring theme of my story being seven years - which is the number I personally consider unlucky - between the deaths of the ones you care about the most.

I also learnt about bringing out the deepest and darkest thoughts that lounge around our minds from Louis CK, which I especially used in my task 3 to develop an insight into the mind of someone that regrets their life decisions and was ready to end it. In my task 3, the character I played was clearly in a dark place. And the different things that she said that most people are afraid to say out loud because there is some sort of a restriction was that people who are suicidal are selfish, because in that moment all they think about is themselves and not the world that they would be leaving behind. One of the main reasons I told this story is because suicide is a taboo topic, it is something that I personally believe is a 'permanent solution to a temporary problem' (as I repeat multiple times throughout my performance). But we've all been there; at least I know that I have been there - so down to the point where you consider the after effects of what would occur after you were gone. Who would cry at your funeral? How much closure does a note really give a person? One of the main things I've always thought about when it comes to suicide is, does the person attempting it realise that whatever happening is going to pass and what they were doing would cause them to cease to exist - completely.

When it comes to the effect that I believe my stories have had on the audiences that I have performed to, it can be seen by the expressions on the faces of the audience while I was telling the story. For the first performance I ever did, the audience was scared for the main character as if they were watching a horror movie or better yet experiencing the horror movie themselves. When I made a character out to be a certain way for example evil, you could see the audience happy when something bad happened to that character and completely on the edge of their chairs. The feedback I got from my peers in terms of my storytelling and the stories that I told, a lot of

them said I was voicing common fears and nightmares and making them come to life and a lot of them felt as if they were experiencing them with the main character in that moment. So I believe that my audience walked away with an important message/moral message planted into their minds, as well as some sort of a 'warning' tale to go with what happens when you don't do a certain thing or when you act a certain way.

Through storytelling I have realised that it can be used as a live diary entry, a way for a character to completely break the fourth wall even as a narrator and to completely get inside the head of characters and of the audience – at the same time. There is more of an emotional connection between the storyteller and the audience when it is being performed rather than read or recited, and all of the barriers that exist during plays are broken. I have gained a lot of knowledge on both storytelling as an art form, and the ability to control the emotions and thoughts of an audience through the retelling of an event or the reciting of the dark thoughts we have in our minds. And I've never enjoyed a unit more in my lifetime.

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