

*The Visit* was performed on the 23rd of November at UWTSD, Carmarthen in Y Llwyfan to other students and lecturers. It was directed by Matthew Holmquist and adapted by Hanna McPake for a crew of year 3 university actors and set designers. Along with some actors from Coleg Sir Gar. It was a piece originally written by Freidrick Durrenmatt. It's about a wealthy woman who returns to her home village seeking revenge on her childhood sweetheart. The village is struggling financially and the woman makes them an offer to make all their worries disappear. But there's one problem. She wants her childhood sweetheart dead.

McPake and Holmquist put a modern twist on this play. The actors played university actors who then played characters in *The Visit*. The two timelines mirrored each other and were intertwined. They mirrored each other by having a rich lawyer check out the play as a potential sponsor. One of the characters ex-boyfriend had leaked their nude photos and she wanted to go to the police but was slightly hesitant when other characters talked to her about the potential impact that it could have on his life. She talked to the lawyer about it who gave her advice that helped her to make up her mind. This is similar to the original play since it's about a woman who has been wronged and made a threat that could end someone's life.

At first, the play within a play of *The Visit* was very cheap and simple, however as it went on and the promise of money was added, the budget increased. The set design team showed this through the quality of the set as well as the lighting. Instead of simply using the room lighting, it gradually progressed to professional lighting which was more versatile. The set itself improved as well. For example, at the start, *The Visit* set didn't have all the necessary props so they had to use people as trees or a log to sit on. There was a puppet panther used and at first it was a simple shadow puppet behind a sheet and by the end it had turned into a bigger and more detailed, three dimensional puppet that had to be operated by two people. One of the set designers said "it was very difficult to tone down our ideas and actively not use the resources we had to our advantage". All of the bigger and better sets were gradually added so it wasn't a harsh transition.

The year 3 actors and set designers did a wonderful job portraying this story. There were a few mishaps of forgetting lines but they can be excused as it was the first showing and nerves were at an all time high. They did not impact the viewing of the play and the actors showed great promise that they would be able to run the play perfectly for the first showing to the public.

Overall, it was fantastic to be able to watch the play early and see all of the hard work they had to put into it pay off. It was well adapted, the acting was fantastic and the sets were phenomenal. I would highly recommend seeing it for yourself.