

A New Brain Journal Entry 1

We have now completed week 2 of A New Brain rehearsals and I'm already so invested in the process. Moving at such a quick speed allows us to constantly be engaged and really live the show going from day to day. We started with a list exercise where we had to write and evaluate the chosen adjectives to describe our feelings and movements towards Gordon. This was extremely helpful because it allowed me to really tap into Lisa's emotions and how she represents Gordon and their relationship. In order to accurately portray my character I had to choose a method that I knew was helpful to me and that is the psycho physicality method by Stanislavski, "PSYCHO-PHYSICALITY means training your body to be receptive to your psyche, and vice versa. Through this training, you can start to listen to your acting instrument and hear the range of its possibilities."

Music

During the first week, we completed the learning of the entire score, and it is a big one. I feel I worked extremely hard at getting my harmonies learnt and made sure to work on the songs when I got home in order to be prepared for when we eventually stage them as I'm aware we do not have the time to go back and re learn things at such a minimal amount of time.

When in music rehearsals I focused a lot on backfrasing as I think this is a good choice for my character in certain songs, especially in "A Lousy Day In The Universe".

When learning my solo "change" I really delved deep into my character and what I discovered was so much more than I first thought. At surface level, Lisa is your stereotypical homeless woman who keeps asking for change, but through research the subliminal message is that she's asking for change in the world, "change the government, kill the mayor, it's not fair". Even though the homeless woman is in Gordon's hallucinations, she is in fact a real character. For me personally, Lisa, the homeless woman represents Gordons fear of what he could become, she also represents the mental health society in "a really lousy day in the universe", with whom she sings with Roger, she has many interactions with Roger and builds quite the relationship with him starting from asking him for change and calling him a "big spender" to being his therapy in "a really lousy day in the universe", it's a really lovely, natural progression.

Staging

In the 2 weeks we managed to stage a quite a few of the big numbers in the show including "And they're off" and "Sitting becalmed in the lee of Cuttyhunk", we also staged the "prologue", "911 emergency" and "heart and music".

Staging the numbers was great for me to be able to workshop how my character Lisa moved and spoke, although we haven't staged my big scenes yet, I feel doing the smaller ones first are so important as I need to make sure I have more of an impact on the audience.

I'm really looking forward to staging "change", "the homeless lady's revenge" and "a really lousy day in the universe" as then I can put my research and analysis into fruition and make Lisa come to life.

Character Analysis

During my research for my character Lisa, the Homeless Woman, I found that she is a very godly figure in that she comes and goes and always has a message to tell and offer to not just Gordon, but to everyone.

I decided to look into homelessness in New York and I found some really interesting but disturbing information

"In a city of more than 8.3 million people, nearly one in every 106 New Yorkers is homeless — that's nearly 80,000 men, women and children. * Every night, nearly 2,400 people sleep on the street, in the subway system or in other public spaces." I wanted to portray this accurately and using the psycho - physical method will really help me with this.

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