

“In what ways has your work on the production helped to realise the director’s intended vision of the piece?”

I have interpreted Geinor’s vision of the piece to be as much like a film as possible. It seemed she wanted the scenes to flow clearly in swift circular momentum especially for the split scenes. Geinor visioned naturalistic acting with stylised elements to emphasise key parts of the story e.g Boldwood’s party is a choreographed piece of movement, Troy and Bathsheba’s wedding party, Bathsheba’s inner thoughts.

I have given all of my attention and focus to this production. I’ve been able to focus on Geinor and Dan’s intended vision by identifying where the truth of the comedy is within my character e.g ideas of where to put the emphasis, where the punch line is etc. I have taken on board all notes, blocking changes and implemented them immediately.

I have been able to keep to Geinor’s vision of naturalistic acting by using techniques and tips from acting practitioners and books e.g ‘*An Actor Prepares*’ (1) which has helped me with objectives, relaxing, emotion etc.

I tend to focus on three questions when I am given a character, from Uta Hagan “*What Did I Just Do? What Am I Doing Now? What Do I want?*” (2)

I created a scene prep in each scene to perform this character with truth.

I have helped Geinor’s vision of the piece by understanding the the lifestyle in 1800’s Britain and women’s place in society at this time. I have had to think upon the thought process a 50 year old charwomen would have in Wessex 1874. I have needed to be cautious and think about context, accent, posture, attitude, status, society, intention etc. (3)

The story is concerned with Bathsheba’s emotional, physical journey and the same with Troy, Oak and Boldwood. Geinor wanted this to be evident to the audience. The director wanted the other aspects of the piece to be a comical relief for the audience, for example, Maryann, Liddy, and the farm workers.

In the original Thomas Hardy novel (4) it mentions that Poorgrass wants to woo Maryann. Me and Dez discussed this and decided to give a few looks to each other throughout.

I created a detailed backstory to ensure I knew what Maryann’s life had been like. This gave her a bigger identity to me which helps with Geinor’s vision.

My character is Maryann Money, her surname Money is Irish. I was intrigued by why Maryann is a gossip, humorous and a quite child like at times. I have said she went through a lot of tragedy in her personal life where her parents struggled for money during the time of The Great Famine disaster. I have said that her mother fell ill during the time of disease and passed away leaving her in her fathers care. Her father and her migrated to England and began working for Mr John Everdene. Her father passed away five years after the migration. I have said this because the life expectancy was a lot younger than today. Maryann has worked there for 30 years. In my interpretation I have found the truth in Maryann through this. I have chosen to give her a bubbly, light hearted witty feel to her. And I have said it is because of her tragedies, she has this persona in her later years.

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