



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Second Journal Entry
The Process

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Final Production
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Over the last two weeks, rehearsals have been very intense and full on. However, this is something I've enjoyed as I feel that even though I'm a minor role I'm still involved a lot. Our director requested that we look at Fred Astaire as he was the vibe that we were going at. I took a look at some of the dance shows and the commentator describes him as he "always used to have shoes with wings," which to me indicates that he's constantly moving whether he's standing still, there's something always going on whether this is his facial expressions, his feet or perhaps even his arms. It is also said that "all of his moves are a joy to watch." Fred Astaire has really good coordination which is something that I'm working on throughout the rehearsal process as it's something that's not easy for me, meaning at times I have to adapt. An example of this is, in Slap that Bass, we have to lasso our arms whilst also doing a foot movement. I attempted to do this numerous times but it kept putting me off for the rest of the dance and so I just used my arms and did something more simplistic with the feet. As well as this, for the final number we were asked to look up the opening of Beautiful Girls from Follies which is something that James wants us to do something similar to for the finale. It's very gracious and steady which I will make sure to incorporate into my performance.

Kev, who is stage combat trained, came in and helped us work on a few scenes that involved fighting. This was something that I found really beneficial as I had never done stage combat before. Not only was this fun, but it was really intriguing to see how realistic this made things without actually injuring anyone. I know that the MA's also had him for bad girls and could see the great work that they put into the fight that was in their show. The main thing that I learnt about stage combat was to really go for it, make noises and big reactions as the bigger it is the more realistic it looks. It was a little terrifying at first as I didn't want to accidentally injure someone but with a great coach like Kev, I felt a lot more confident knowing every little movement.

We looked at status and how different characters in the show had different status'. For example, the mother is quite a high status, whereas someone like Patsy is a lower status. We did various activities to show how different status impacted different situations. One of these was, someone was at a restaurant and something was wrong with their food, they kept apologising to the waiter, but since the waiter was a higher status they didn't care. We then swapped roles and the waiter was the one who had a low status and the customer a higher status which made it a lot more comedic. This had me thinking about what status my character would have. I feel like depending on the situation, depends on what sort of status she shows. When the boys run off with other girls, she definitely has a high status, but with someone like Irene or Lank about, she's a lot more laid back and low status

Something that I have found beneficial with this show is learning that I am capable of doing dances. At the start when we were first told what show we were doing, I was disappointed and slightly stressed as I don't consider myself a dancer. However, doing this show has shown me otherwise. It's most certainly been tricky, but I've made sure to stay committed, practice over the weekends or whenever I have some spare time and if there was something that I struggled with or was unsure about, I would go and ask a dance captain to go through it with me. An anxiety of mine is remembering what scenes come next and where I enter/exit from. However, I think that once we've run it a few times, I'll be able to drill it a little more so that I feel more confident. I also think Amy giving notes privately when something goes wrong is also really beneficial. It shows that she's not mad about it, but she's just trying to help. The runs that we have done so far have been really good and now it's just a thing of cleaning it up.

References

www.youtube.com. (n.d.). Top 10 Iconic Fred Astaire Dance Scenes. [online] Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQFamAFNALE&t=150s>.

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