

PRODUCTION, PERFORMANCE and GENRE

SKARLETTE MCARTHUR

2500536

Forbidden Acts Productions
“Present Past” Pitch Presentation on
NSFW (Not Safe For Work) by Lucy Kirkwood,
and my role within the presentation,
and its evaluation

Our group presentation on Lucy Kirkwood's NSFW (Not Safe For Work) focused on exploring the play as a whole and how, as a theatre company, we would look to produce a production at the Royal Court, London, as part of their Present Past play scheme initiative, emphasizing the importance and relevance of the play for a contemporary society.

After reading and researching the play, we collectively decided to focus on the themes, design and characters of the play; with emphasis on the psychological and emotional state of the central character Carrie. This influenced our decisions as a group when it came to the design and production aspects of the presentation, and this spread into my individual role exploring performance elements and qualities in greater detail with my focus being on scene 2.

My role was focused on exploring what happens in act two, how this affects the characters, and how an actor could portray this. My research and reading in this area influence my creative decisions. I found online reviews regarding a variety of different performances of the play and watched interviews with the actors from NSFW. As well as reading from the script, I tried to do more expanded reading on the play to ensure that I was equipped with as much information as possible. By this I mean reading up on different reviews, articles and taking on board what had been said in the actual performance itself and interviews with the actors.

I considered many points of interest and ideas regarding the play generally and the character of Carrie more specifically; I decided to explore Carrie's pornography situation, how her character is kept anonymous (apart from her name) and how her situation is still extremely relevant in today's society even though the play was set and written more than a decade ago back in 2012. I also tried to make personal connections where possible to aid and further inform my creative journey as an actor; using practitioners such as Konstantin Stanislavski as part of my process. Stanislavski's "Emotional Recall" technique was very useful when trying to closely relate to Carrie. Having grown up in a society where pornography has been so normalized, I feel as though it is a lot easier to understand Carrie's frustrations knowing the implications of pornography, especially the younger people in society. Knowing how this would affect Carrie allowed me to empathize with her and her situation and inspired my acting in my performance a lot.

PRODUCTION, PERFORMANCE and GENRE

SKARLETTE MCARTHUR

2500536

When presenting this play, our costumes weren't based on certain characters because we decided that it would be more beneficial to wear costumes that closely reflected the message and overall themes of the play rather than specific characters. Based on this decision, we decided to wear collared shirts (to show the work aspect of the play) and ties that represented different genitalia (to highlight the pornography aspects throughout the entirety of the play). We thought that by doing this it would allow the audience to connect with the play and the overall message that both men's and women's magazines commodify sexuality, manipulate ideals of perfection, and exploit young workers. We thought that this would be a lot more important than connecting with individual characters because the message and themes of the play are quite strong and also extremely relevant to the modern world that we live in.

When deciding which scenes to present, we decide on ones that summarized the play best and highlighted the most prominent parts. Based on these decisions, we chose 3 scenes (one from each act). The first scene was about two men objectifying women's body parts and highly sexualizing them; however, whilst doing this they are making it seem like a motivational speech rather than act of injustice. This further shows how normalized pornography and sexualizing women's bodies are normalized in this day and age (part of the overall message). In the second scene we see Bradshaw and Aidan arguing over the fact that Bradshaw's daughter is 14 and still a minor and Aidan trying to manipulate Bradshaw into thinking that he found his own daughter attractive. We chose this scene because it highlights how the media can brainwash people so easily into believing that things like this are acceptable when they are morally and legally wrong. The third and final scene we chose was where we see Miranda controlling Sam and making him circle women's body parts in a nude magazine. We thought this scene was interesting because it now shows a women taking control instead of man and making him do it out of force to highlight his vulnerable side. This scene was very important to include because it still shows the implications of pornographic media to people in society not only women but men as well.

Evaluation

Overall, I was extremely happy with how my group presentation went, and I feel as though my goals and objectives that I set for myself were met in terms of my performance skills as an actor when performing my scenes and delivering my sections of the presentation. In the future, I feel like it would benefit not only me and my group but also the audience if I was to add more information and quotations to my sections. I feel like this would benefit everyone overall because then we would all gain more knowledge on the play and be able to connect more with it. I could also perhaps have used Stanislavski's emotional recall more because then I would have been able to relate more to Carrie and her character.

Bibliography

Lucy Kirkwood (2012) NSFW (Not Safe For Work)

South London Theatre (09/09/2025) NSFW Preview - [Preview: NSFW | South London Theatre](#)

Waterstones (25/10/2012) NSFW by Lucy Kirkwood - [NSFW by Lucy Kirkwood | Waterstones](#)