



## Monthly Spotlight: Dramaturgy

### How to Prepare for an Audition!

"Hello, my name is Austin Anderson, the freshman representative of the Archbishop Rummel

Genesian players, and I am here to tell you how I prepare for an audition! The Genesian club does 2 main stage shows a year, one that is a musical; one that is a straight show. Let's go over the musical first, so when I prepare for a musical I like to get familiar with all the music in the show. I listen to many different cast recordings trying to find the best ones to listen to and emulate. Then, I watch other productions of the show to see what works well and what doesn't. Once I've done all of that I then take a few songs from that show and work with my vocal coach, Mr. Alan Payne, on preparing for the roles I fit into vocally. For example our upcoming musical for next year is "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and my vocal range is tenor, so what I will do is look at all the characters in the show with the same vocal range as me, and find out what their songs are and go and work on them with Mr. Payne. So come audition day, I am ready and fully prepared for whatever happens. There is something satisfying about seeing your hard work all come together when you get cast; I think of it like a second Christmas, or even a second birthday! Now, on to the straight show! Don't think just because there isn't any singing required, it makes the audition process easier, because it absolutely doesn't. Preparing for a straight show is almost the same as preparing for a musical, but instead of getting familiar with the music, you get familiar with the show. Now, you might be asking yourself, "But now that there isn't any singing how do you audition?". Well that's when monologues come in. "What's a monologue?" I'm glad you asked! A Monologue is a long speech by an actor in a play, or as part of a theatrical or broadcast program. We must read monologues for our auditions for every straight show we do, and monologues are no walk in the park; they can range from a paragraph to a whole page. With preparation and good work ethic you are bound to get a part."

-Austin Anderson  
(Genesian Club Freshmen Representative)

### Shakespeare helps Reading Comprehension?

The following questions were answered by Rummel's librarian Mrs. Lobrano

Q: Do you think reading and performing Shakespeare helps with your Lexie score?

A: "Yes, in the spring of 2016 the Genesian players performed "A Midsummer Nights Dream" a play written by Shakespeare and in April when we did our end of the year Lexie testing most of the Genesian players significantly improved their Lexie scores."

Dramaturgy is probably one of the least known jobs in theatre, and probably one of the most important. There's no easy definition for dramaturgy. It can be changed to meet the needs of any given production. Dramaturges can fulfill any number of roles that a production calls for.

I view dramaturgy as translation. Not translating in a literal sense, although translating text can be something a dramaturge does. A translator works to convey the meaning of a text to a new audience. The dramaturge works in a similar way, translating the intent of the author to the audience. Dramaturges close the gap between the world of the playwright and the world of the audience.

Research is obviously an important part of the job. I've spent hours compiling information and creating materials for everyone involved with a show. Researching is a necessary skill that dramaturges have to learn. But research is only one part of it. Dramaturges step in between worlds, becoming a bridge that actors, directors, and audiences use to peer into another place, another time.

I spend a lot of time with the play I'm working on. I read and reread the play to find any words, phrases, or references that might need explaining. I try to figure out how a certain line should read: is it funny or serious? I always at the context that the play was written in (this is where a bulk of the research is done), and what the playwright was trying to say about their world.

I do all this not only for the actors, but for everyone who comes to see the show. Dramaturgy creates a fuller, richer experience for the audience. When those putting on a show know what they're talking about, the audience enjoys the show infinitely more. Dramaturgy adds depth to a show that can only come about through a deep understanding of the work.

-Marielle Lambert-Scott

Q: How significant were the increases in the average Genesians Lexie scores?

A: "Anywhere from 100 to a total of 500!"

Q: How else do you think acting can help with your reading comprehension?

A: "You're using your skill to memorize your script, prose, or dialogues which is a major brain activity that enhances learning. Also by acting your words in the performance, using

kinesthetic learning and the more senses you use while acting, the better you develop your capacity for learning. Also learning more quickly by maximizing your senses and ability to learn. As well as Shakespeare's, playwrights are naturally of a higher Lexie."

- Mrs. Lobrano

## St. Genesisus prayer

O noble St. Genesisus who sanctified our art by your martyrdom, bid God accept this our humble creation made for his honor and glory. Direct us to be worthy performers of the stage you so ennobled. Guide our destiny, Genesisus, so that we may bring Christ to others through the joyful celebration of our roles on stage and in life. We ask this of you in the name of God, AMEN!

St. Genesisus,

Guide our Destiny!

Live Jesus in our hearts,

Forever!

Thank God Almighty,

I'm a Genesian!

Written by: Michael Brown

### Upcoming events:

Genesians Trevor Brown, Abigail Rodney, and Geni-President Deiveon Martinsen can be seen in "Billy Elliot" at Rivertown Theatre from

#### January 13-29!

As well as our upcoming production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" which will be in the Genesian theatre and will run from

#### March 24- April 1

Many Genesian alumns are also performing at their colleges some even with theatre scholarships!

### Speaking of Scholarships!

Many of our Genesian alumns have been rewarded by their hard work and dedication, and not just on the stage but off stage as well! Genesian alumn Lexi Mancuso describes what theater life is like on campus at NSU and a few things she has been rewarded with.

"Life is almost nonstop here at NSU, at least for theatre students. We produce multiple main stage and student ran productions every semester that require everyone to help. The arts are thriving at Northwestern state and it is clear that the university cares about the school of Creative and Preforming Arts.

I am a freshman, but a sophomore by hours. This semester, I have been giving the honor of being Master Welder for "Next To Normal", Charge Artist for "Hedda Gabler", and Scenic Designer for a second season (student directed) production "The Cover of Life".

I was given a very nice scholarship coming in this year. Most technicians have a scholarship of some sort from the department, but it varies. To keep this scholarship and possibly get a raise, you have to prove yourself to be vital to the department.

There is a lot of camaraderie and sense of a family atmosphere here at NSU. We are all here for one another. Theatre is a difficult major, and can cause a lot of stress. We try to keep the drama on stage and be there for each other in the good and bad times."

-Lexi Mancuso