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"Communicating Doors and the Actor's Product"

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Recommended Citation

Parsons, Jessica, "Communicating Doors and the Actor's Product" (2013). *Honors Theses*. 2336.
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Communicating Doors – and the Actor's Product

Abstract

Western Michigan University Theatre's production of *Communicating Doors* was a comedic play involving time-travel, murder, and strange British accents. My role, "Jessica", was a young, rich, ditzzy character who, with two other strong female characters, helps save the day.

Performing in the Western Michigan University Theatre's production of *Communicating Doors* challenged my ability to interpret a comedic script in order to develop a three-dimensional and interesting characterization, tested my understanding of physical, vocal and intellectual performing skills, as well as improved my ability to understand the importance of research in creating an intelligent and justified performance.

The process raised several questions about the physical and emotional aspects of preparing for a role. Many actors face the issue of body image when preparing for a production because the actor's body is their product, so the body must be maintained to fit a certain image. Does this negatively affect self esteem? Or is it seen as simply a part of being a working actor to assess oneself from a third-party point of view? The following is a report on my own experience with the effects of body image when involved in the production, *Communicating Doors*, as well as a report on interviews with two actors also involved in the production, Talia Grzelewski, and Robert Clemence. *Communicating Doors* was performed at Western Michigan University in February 2013.