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Musical Theatre Showcase: A performance journey and reflection

Alyssa Zamora

Looking back on my last four years at Western Michigan University, every class, workshop, and coaching has been leading up to my musical theatre showcase. Participating in a showcase gives amazing opportunities for artists and specifically arts students to show how far they've come, as well as network with industry professionals. My showcase was nothing short of opportunity to share my growth and meet agents who have connections that will aid me in transitioning out of educational theatre and into the professional career of performing.

Western Michigan University hosted an in-person, socially distanced, and masked showcase in Detroit, MI on April 10th, 2021. We brought in five agents from the top agencies in New York, Los Angeles, and Detroit. I got to perform for them and receive feedback on my work and advice for my next steps into the professional world.

Personally, I have thought about who I was and how I sounded at the beginning of my time at Western Michigan University and I am appreciative of the way that my professors and curriculum have aided in how I grew musically and discovered who I am as an artist. I enjoyed my showcase because it was something I had been looking forward to since I arrived at Western Michigan University, even though it looked different than expected. I also got to be with my class one last time before we all left to pursue theatre, art, and making the world a better place all across the country and world (one day).

Showcase is a very beneficial asset to anyone graduating into a field that is all about connections. Regardless of what school you attend and what honors or awards you received, it's about who you are as an artist and when getting started, it is often about who you know. My

showcase at Western Michigan University set me up for success in every area I am passionate about. The video of my performance is a video recording of my songs, “I Want Them…” by Zina Goldrich and Marcy Heisler, and “Thrills” by Donna Missal. With the industry shifting to virtual submissions and Zoom auditions, these videos of my work from Showcase will continue to aid me in my journey of auditioning, interviewing, and booking jobs in my future career. I am so grateful that we got to do a showcase at all and excited for all the opportunities that Western Michigan University has set up for me now and in the years to come.