

## Post-Performance Evaluation

This was, by far, one of the greatest experiences I have had at Western Michigan University. Up to that point, I knew that I learned a lot in my classes, but I did not get many opportunities outside of my classes to apply my skills. Honestly, because of that, I had doubts about whether or not I had improved in acting. Thanks to this opportunity, I learned to trust my studies and myself a bit more. Over the summer, I did my research and “bookwork” very thoroughly. In most classes, this would cause me to be stuck in my thoughts rather than living in the moment when I was acting. Meanwhile, I decided that summer that I would do the work and just leave it at home when I got to the rehearsal space. In that moment, I learned that if you trust your work enough, it will become second nature when you start to rehearse the show. The choices I made during rehearsals seem to fit so well. In fact, since I lived in the moment, I made different discoveries that I would not have thought of when I was doing my bookwork. It was very exciting and thrilling.

Also, I learned how important affirmation is from my professors and peers. My professor, Mark, was the director of our production and it was such a pleasure working with him. I admire him so much as a teacher and a director. For years, we had been working on my acting technique and really relaxing and living in truth in acting. He told me during rehearsals how much my hard work paid off in this show. He said that my work was so beautiful and full of truth. Lastly, he said that he hardly gave me direction because he loved my choices and that I was the “glue” of the show. That statement alone made my four years at Western Michigan University completely worth it. I loved this show and I will never forget this experience.