

**SM 101:
AN EVENTFUL MEMOIR OF A STAGE MANAGER**

Honors Thesis

**Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts**

In the College of Arts and Sciences
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By

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SM 101:

AN EVENTFUL MEMOIR OF A STAGE MANAGER



BY: BOVIE BOISVERT

DEDICATED TO:

MOM, DAD, EMMY
SYMPHONY, JJ, MADISON
BEN, MELISSA, LILY, CASSIE FELIX
PETER, MICHAEL, AND TOPHER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING
THESE PAST 4 YEARS!
I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY
WITHOUT YOU ALL.

LOVE,
BOVIE :) (AKA, ALEX)

CHAPTER 1: REHEARSALS

THE FIRST REHEARSAL



THE SGRR. WHERE THE FUN BEGINS!



DEEP BREATHS.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A
SHOW TO REMEMBER!



1ST REHEARSALS ARE ALWAYS THE MOST FUN. IT'S THE BEGINNING OF OUR JOURNEY WITH THIS SHOW, AND THE ENERGY IS ALWAYS ELECTRIFYING. FOR OUR SHOW, WE MET AFTER A LONG ANTICIPATED SUMMER, OUR AGENDA WAS LINED UP, AND WE JUMPED RIGHT IN!

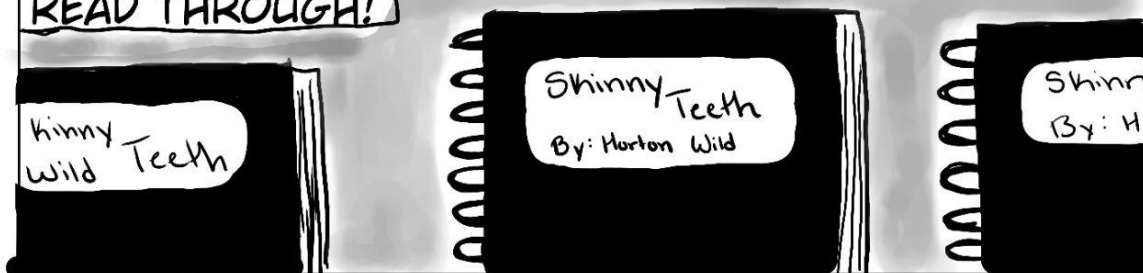
INTRODUCTIONS!



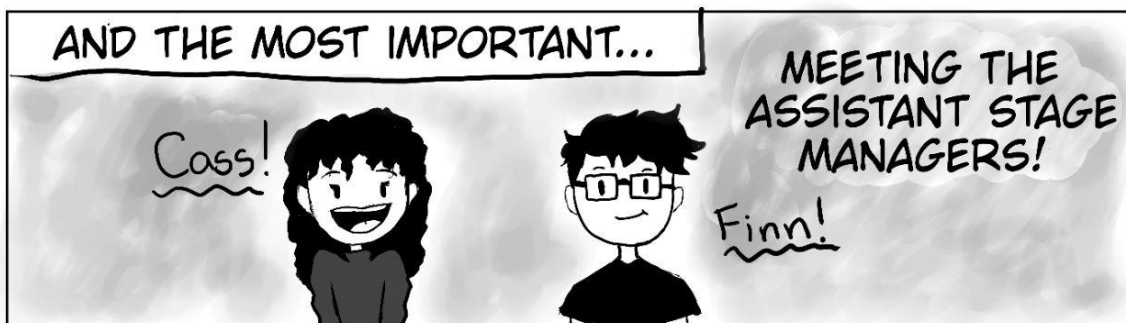
DESIGNER PRESENTATIONS!



READ THROUGH!



AND THE MOST IMPORTANT...



WHILE TABLE READS ARE FUN, AFTER THAT COMES TABLEWORK.
A TIME STAGE MANAGERS USE TO GET THEIR PAPERWORK
TOGETHER. BUT YOU STILL HAVE 2 HOURS LEFT AND YOU'VE
COMPLETED IT ALL. THERES ALSO NO STAGING TO RECORD SO...
THIS TENDS TO HAPPEN....

A DRAMATIC REENACTMENT:

YEP! JUST FINISHED!

DID YOU GUYS
FINISH THE
FRENCH SCENE
BREAKDOWN?



THE DAILY CALLS ARE DONE?

YEP.



2 HOURS LATER....

ZZZZ

ZZZZ

OK BOVIE!
WE'RE DONE!



FINALLY



ONCE WE GET OUT OF THE TEDIOUS TABLEWORK TRAIN, THEN IT'S PRETTY SMOOTH SAILING. WE HAVE A FLOW, AND WE MUDDLE THROUGH STAGING. BUT OF COURSE, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT THROWS YOU OFF YOUR RHYTHM. IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAPPEN WHEN YOU HAVE A TON OF PROPS AND SET PIECES TO MOVE WHICH MEANS YOU NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK. IT STARTED WHEN I GOT A LITTLE TEXT FROM FINN ONE AFTERNOON...

IT SAID:



HEY BOVIE,
I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS... I WAS
IN A CAR CRASH THIS WEEKEND
AND I THINK I MIGHT HAVE A
CONCUSSION. I'M GOING TO GET
IT CHECKED OUT, BUT ILL HAVE
TO BE OUT OF REHEARSALS THIS
WEEK.

SHIT.



I HAD A REAL CONLINDRUM ON MY HANDS.
HE WAS INJURED AND I FELT BADLY.
I HOPED HE WAS OK, BUT ALSO I WAS
MAD I GOT PUT IN THIS SITUATION. I
NEEDED TO FIGURE OUT A TEMPORARY
REPLACEMENT. BUT I ALSO THOUGHT
ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CASS
WOULD GET SICK? I'M DEFINATELY
UNABLE TO FILL IN, AND THIS SHOW IS A
LOT FOR ONE PERSON TO HANDLE
BACKSTAGE....OH BOY.

HOW THE HELL COULD I GET OUT OF THIS???



THEN I REALIZED THAT THIS WAS TOO MUCH.
NOT THAT I DIDN'T TRUST MY ASMS, THERE WAS JUST A LOT OF BIG
MOVING PIECES TO KEEP TRACK OF. ESPECIALLY WITH FINN BEING OUT
FOR THE WEEK. IT WOULD BE A LOT FOR CASS AND FINN.

I NEEDED A BACK UP.

I NEEDED SOMEONE TO FILL IN FOR FINN, BUT ALSO SOMEONE I
KNEW COULD ADAPT TO THE CHAOS.

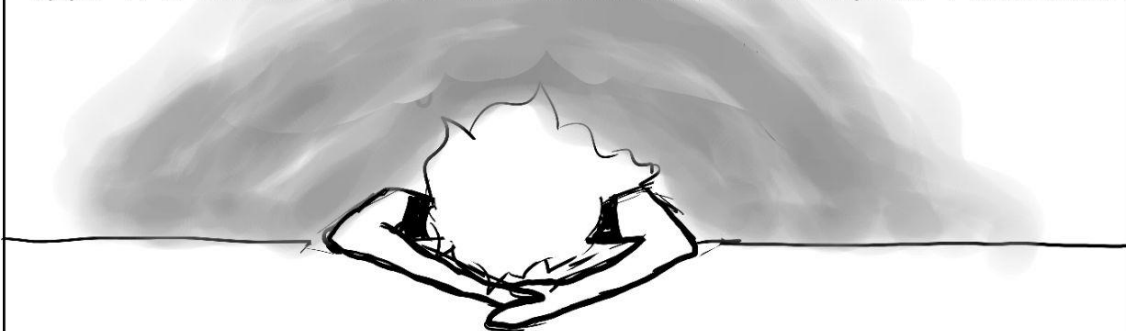


BILLIE. MY ASM FROM LONG CHRISTMAS RIDE HOME. I KNEW I COULD
COUNT ON HER. SHE WAS AMAZING WHEN I WORKED WITH HER SO I
KNEW SHE COULD HANDLE ANYTHING I THREW AT HER.



I FELT SO MUCH BETTER KNOWING THAT CASS AND FINN WOULD HAVE
SOMEONE TO HELP THEM WITH ALL OF THE BIG SCENERY PIECES. I
FELT MUCH BETTER ABOUT LEAVING THEM BACKSTAGE WITH THE
CHAOS. BUT THE ONLY THING IS...WOULD I BEEN SEEN AS WEAK
ASKING FOR HELP? WHAT WOULD OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF ME?

PART OF THIS JOB IS KNOWING WHEN TO ASK FOR HELP AND THAT IT'S OK TO DO SO. YOU WON'T GET SPIRITUALLY PENALIZED.



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONES IN CHARGE, WHO HAVE THE ANSWERS TO EVERYTHING.



WHO'S GOING TO TRUST US WHEN WE ADMIT WE NEED HELP? WE NEED TO REMEMBER WE'RE HUMAN.

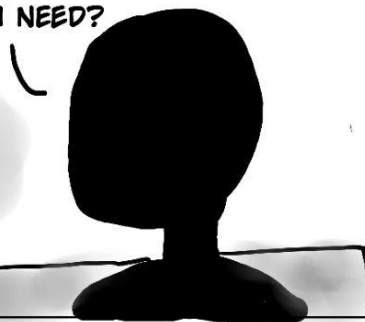


I THINK I NEED HELP. THIS SHOW IS TURNING OUT TO BE A LOT FOR US.

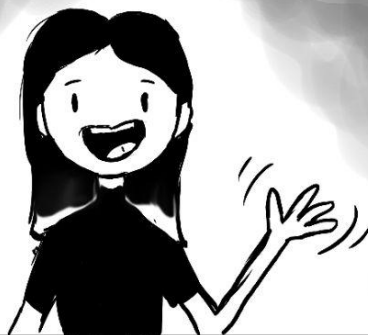


OF COURSE. WHAT DO YOU NEED?

It's that simple.



BILLIE JOINS THE TEAM!



WITH BILLIE AS OUR NEW ASM, THINGS WENT MUCH SMOOTHER! I FELT SAFER KNOWING THAT CASS AND FINN WOULD HAVE SOMEONE BACKSTAGE WITH THEM. AND I ALSO HAD A REPLACEMENT FOR FINN FOR THE WEEK HE WOULD BE ABSENT! IT ALL WORKED OUT!

WE HAD A GREAT SYSTEM!

FINN!
MANNING
STAGE RIGHT!

BILLIE!
WHEREVER
SHE'S NEEDED!

CASS!
MANNING
STAGE LEFT!

REHEARSALS CONTINUED ON WITHOUT A HITCH! TECH WEEK SOON APPROACHED, AND WE ALL FELT PRETTY PREPARED GOING INTO IT. ONE DAY THE DIRECTOR APPROACHED ME.

HELLO, BOVIE.

YO!

SOMETHING CAME UP
AND IT'S URGENT.
I COULD REALLY
USE YOUR INPUT.
DO YOU HAVE A
SECOND?

YEAH SURE!

WE WENT INTO THE BOOTH AND I MENTALLY PREPARED MYSELF FOR WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG.

THE BOOTH DOOR

THANKS FOR MEETING WITH ME BOVIE.

OF COURSE! WHAT'S UP?

WE NEED TO POSTPONE TECH. BUILD ISN'T DONE AND THEY NEED MORE TIME.

I MAY HAVE MISHEARD YOU... WHAT?

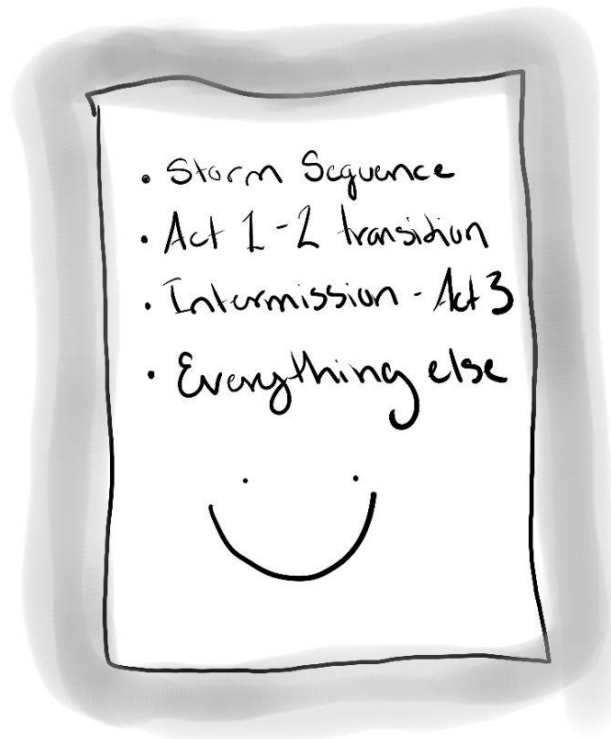
YEP. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE THEM SATURDAY. DO YOU AGREE?

YEAH. WE CAN MAKE IT WORK. IT'LL BE FINE.

I WAS WORRIED ON MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS. THE MAIN ONE BEING THAT IT LEFT ME WITH A VERY SHORT TIME TO PREPARE AND REHEARSE CALLING. BUT WE TALKED AND HE ASSURED ME THAT IT WOULD BE OK. I KNEW DEEP DOWN TOO. I HAD A GREAT TEAM BEHIND ME TO BACK ME UP SO I KNEW THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPEND, I COULD GO TO THEM. ITS GOING TO BE ROUGH, BUT IT'LL BE FINE IN THE END. NO ONE IS GOING TO DIE!

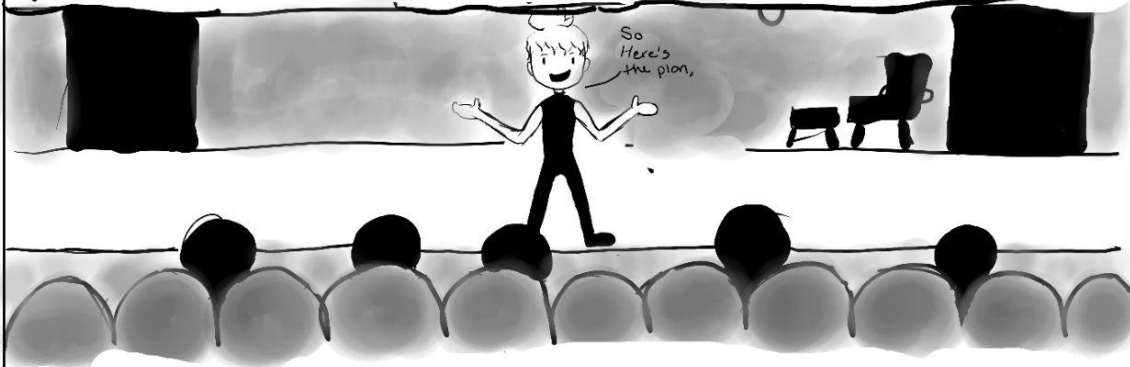
CHAPTER 2: TECH WEEK

SINCE WE'VE BEEN PUSHED BACK SO MUCH, WE WERE IN SERIOUS CRUNCH TIME. OUR ACTUAL CUE TO CUE DAY WAS ON SUNDAY WHICH MEANT WE ONLY HAD THAT DAY TO DO TECH. I KNEW WE HAD TO PRIORITIZE OUR TIME SUPER WISELY. SO I MADE A LIST OF OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM SPOTS.



I THEN HAD AN IDEA TO WORK ON THE TOUGH STUFF FIRST. THAT WAY WE CAN SPEND THE MOST TIME ON THAT, AND THEN WHEN WE GET THOSE OUT OF THE WAY, WE CAN START BACK AT THE BEGINNING AND JUST RUN BREEZE RIGHT THROUGH THOSE CUES! NOT TO TOOT MY OWN HORN BUT...IT'S DAMN GOOD IDEA.

10:00AM. SOPHIA GORDON MAINSTAGE. CUE TO CUE.

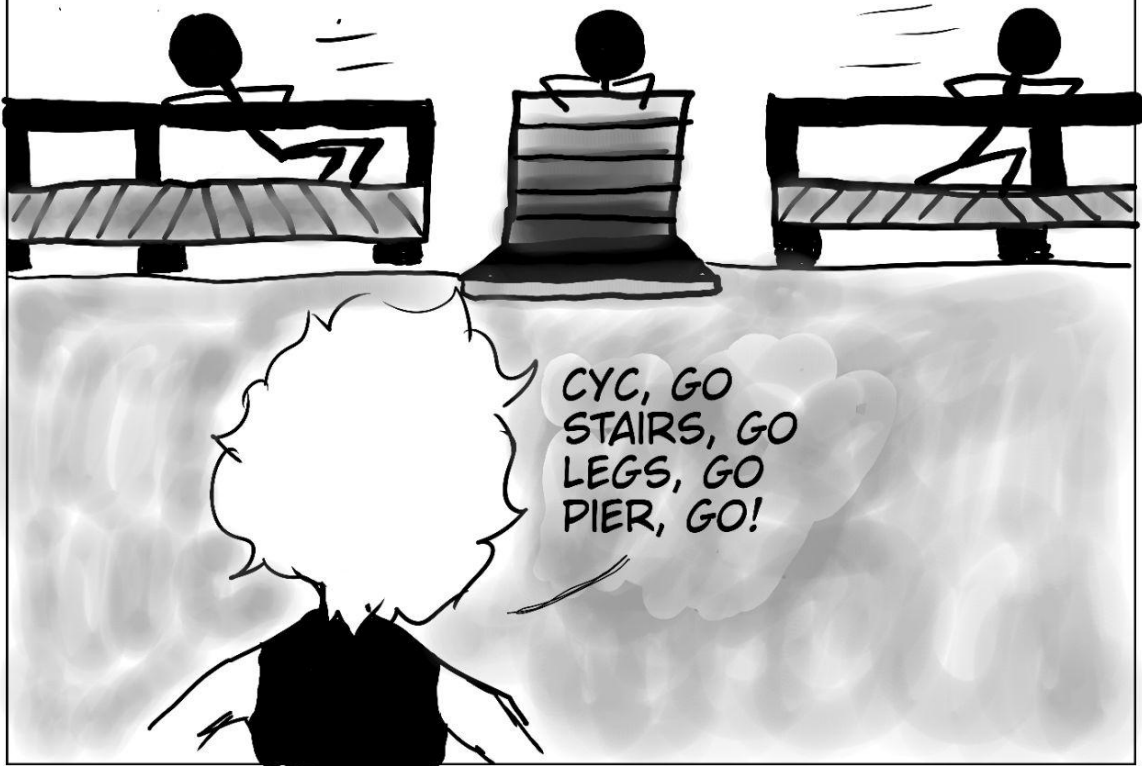


WE ALL GATHERED IN THE SOPHIA AND I DEBRIEFED EVERYONE THE PLAN. EVERYONE SEEMED ONBOARD SO WE GOT RIGHT TO WORK!

WE SET FOR THE BIGGEST MOMENT- THE PIER BREAK, AND I BROKE IT DOWN STEP BY STEP.

STEP 1- NO LIGHTS OR SOUND, JUST THE PIER.

WE SLOWLY WALKED THROUGH ALL THE STEPS OF SPLITTING THE PIER AND WE KEPT RUNNING IT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNEW WHAT THEIR JOB WAS.



STEP 2- ADD EFFECTS!

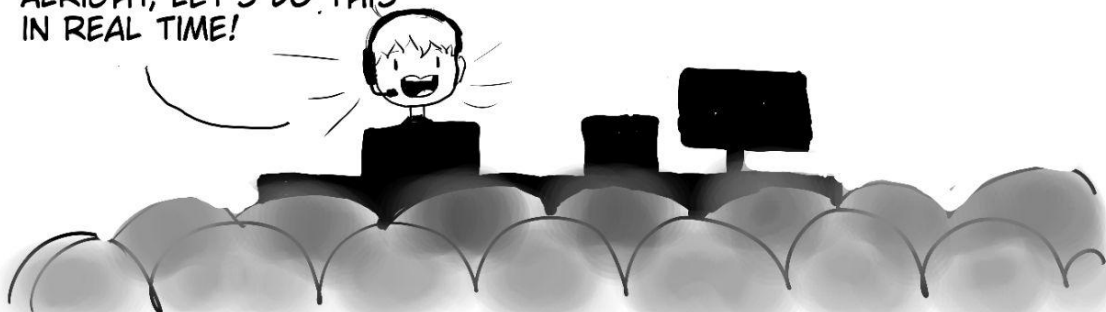
WE THEN ADDED THE LIGHTS AND SOUND!



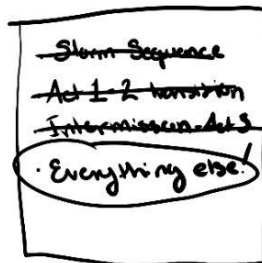
ALRIGHT! LETS ADD THE OTHER ELEMENTS AND WE'LL DO IT WITH MORE CHUTZPAH!

STEP 3- RUNNING FOR REAL!

ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS IN REAL TIME!



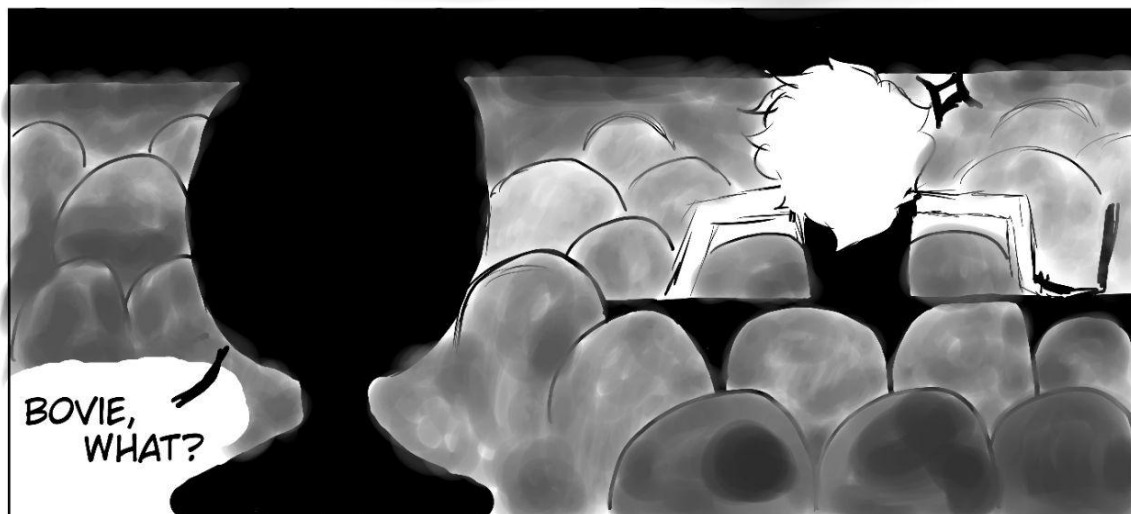
WE WENT THROUGH THE REST OF THE ROUGH SPOTS, AND WE GOT THROUGH THEM PRETTY QUICKLY!



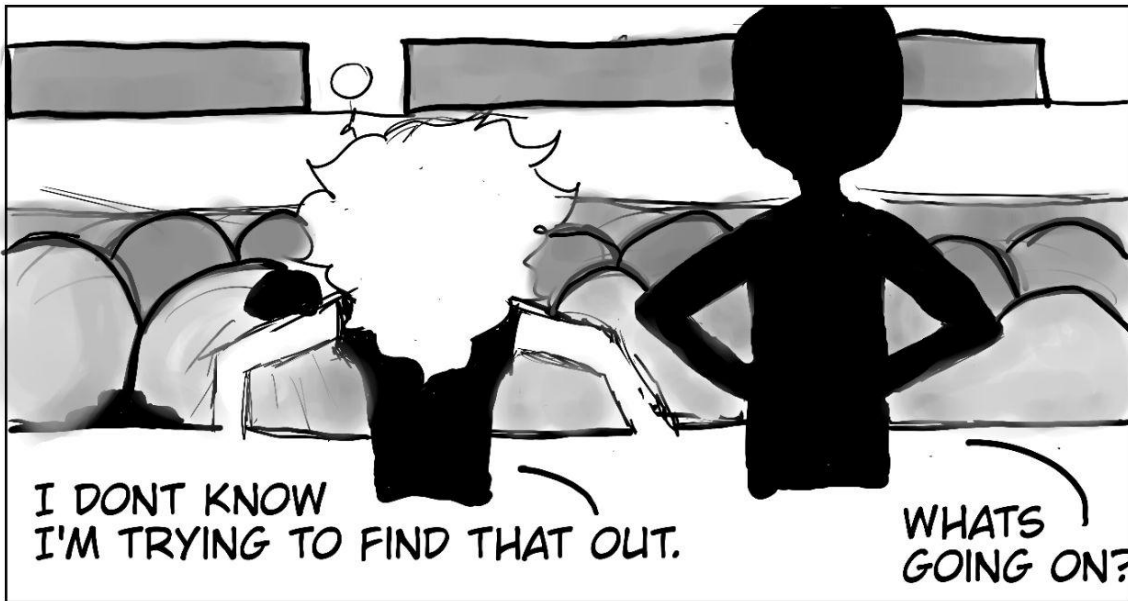
NEXT WAS EVERYTHING ELSE! WE STARTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SHOW AND WORKED OUR WAY THROUGH! IT WENT PRETTY SMOOTHLY UNTIL...



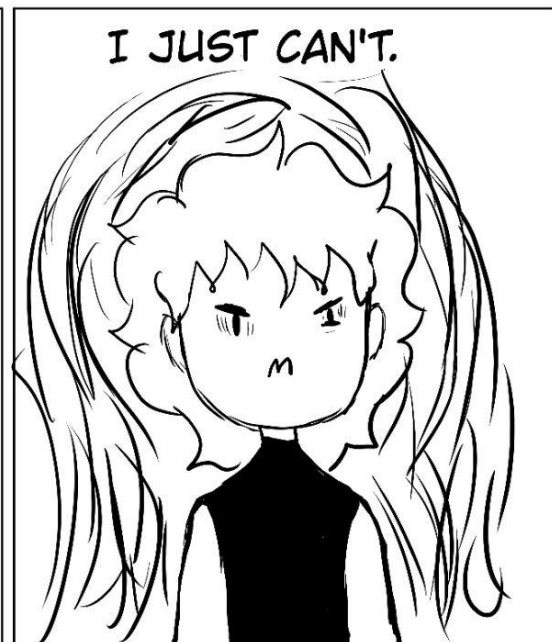
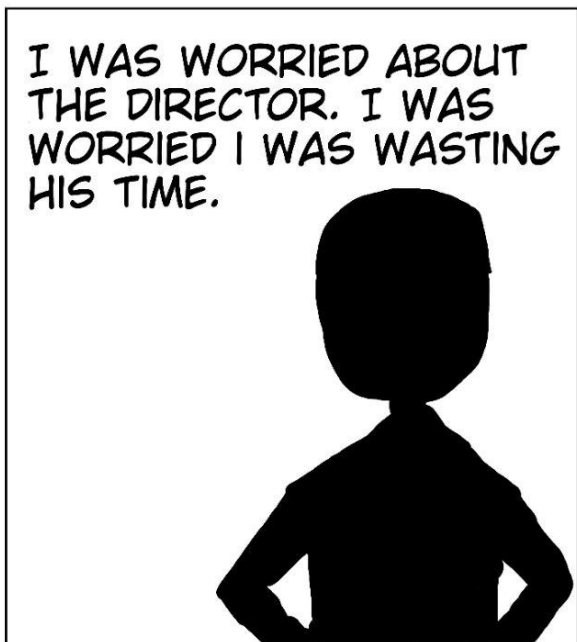
EVERYTHING STOPPED.
MY HEART DROPPED.
MY INSTINCT TOLD ME
THAT SOMEONE GOT
HURT ON THIS
DAMN PIER



BOVIE,
WHAT?



ANGER FEAR AND
CONFUSION TOOK OVER
ME. I WAS PREPARED
TO RUN BACK THERE
AND PERFORM FIRST AID.
I WAS PREPARED FOR
THE WORST.



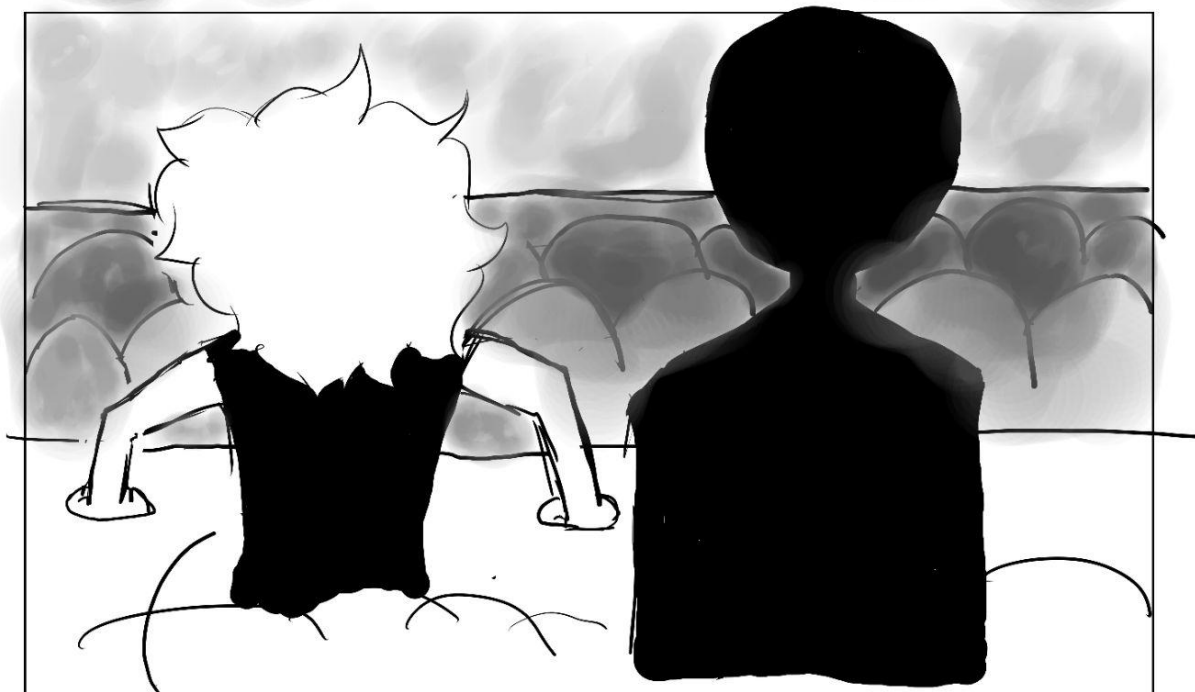
OH MY GOD BOVIE!
I'M SO SORRY!
IT WAS A FALSE
ALARM!
EVERYONE IS FINE!



You've
TO
KIDDING



GOT
BE
ME



WE'RE MOVING ON. FALSE ALARM.



HEYO! I'D LIKE TO PAUSE HERE QUICKLY AND TALK ABOUT "HOLD". IT'S A WORD THAT SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN EMERGENCIES, AND THAT IS WHY I PANIKED. IT'S NOT A WORD TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS HEAVY AND DANGEROUS SET PIECES MOVING AROUND. I HEARD "HOLD" AND IMMIDIATELY ASSUMED THAT SOMEONE GOT STUCK UNDERNEATH IT. I WAS ALSO AFRAID I WAS GOING TO GET YELLED AT BECAUSE OF THIS, BUT I REALIZED THAT IF I HADN'T REACTED THE WAY I DID, AND SOMEONE WAS ACTUALLY HURT, THE SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT WORSE. IT'S TRICKY, BUT YOU ALWAYS GOTTA TRUST THE GUT Y'KNOW?



SO THAT LITTLE INCIDENT HAPPENED, AND EVERYTHING WORKED OUT. NOW IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON TO DRESS REHEARSALS. NOW, WE WERE PUTTING EVERYTHING TOGETHER AND FINALIZING! IT'S USUALLY PRETTY ROUGH. ESPECIALLY THE FIRST DRESS...

1ST DRESS

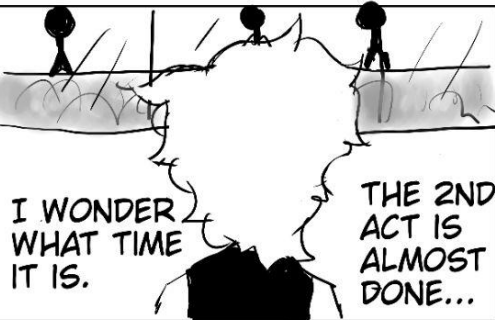


HOLD FOR COSTUMES PLEASE!

COOL! NOW LETS RESET!

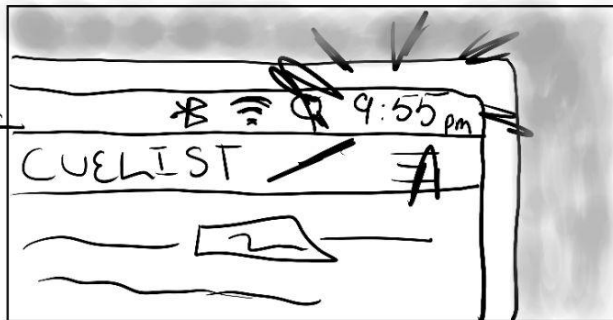


SEVERAL
HOLDS
LATER



I WONDER
WHAT TIME
IT IS.

THE 2ND
ACT IS
ALMOST
DONE...



CUELIST

9:55 pm



OH NO
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE DONE
AT 10...

OMG OMG OMG I'M A FAILURE
NO THE DRESS IS GOING TO HURT
ME EVERYONE'S GOING TO
HATE ME I'M GOING TO
COMBUST DIDNT DO
MY JOB I HAD ONE
SUB I FA WOULD
THIS HAPPY HOW DID
I DO TH I KNOW BETTER

OKAY, OKAY. ACT 2 IS ALMOST DONE. I'LL TALK TO THE DIRECTOR DURING INTERMISSION. SHIT.



OKAY EVERYONE, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A 15. PLEASE BE BACK AT 10:15.



SHIT.



I'M SORRY WE'RE GOING OVER TIME. IT'S MY FAULT...



WHATS GOING BOVIE?

DO NOT APOLOGIZE. YOU ARE DOING GREAT AND HANDLING THIS AS BEST AS YOU CAN.



AND I NEEDED THAT.

HE ASSURED ME THAT THESE WERE ALWAYS THE HARDEST REHEARSALS AND THAT THIS STUFF ALWAYS HAPPENS. HE TOLD ME NOT TO TAKE IT TOO HARD. THAT CHAT REALLY HELPED ME FOR THE REST OF THE DRESS REHEARSALS.



ALL CHAOS ASIDE, THE SHOW WENT VERY WELL AND IT WAS WORTH ALL OF THE INSANITY. LOOKING BACK, MOST OF MY GROWING WAS THROUGH THIS PRODUCTION. I WAS PUT THROUGH SOME STRANGE TRIALS AND SCENARIOS. I LEARNT A LOT AND FOUND SOME NEW CONFIDENCE WITHIN MYSELF. I WOULDN'T TRADE THIS EXPERIENCE FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.



EVERYTHING MENTIONED IN HERE IS ALL WHAT A STAGE MANAGER HAS TO GO THROUGH. THIS IS THE JOB, AND THAT IS WHY I LOVE IT. THERE ARE ALWAYS CHALLENGES AND CRAZY THINGS THAT HAPPEN, BUT IT'S THOSE MOMENTS THAT MAKE US WHO WE ARE. IT'S THOSE MOMENTS THAT HELP US GROW AS STAGE MANAGERS. IT PUTS OUR SKILLS TO THE TEST, AND THERE IS NOTHING WE LOVE MORE THAN TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.

EVERY SHOW IS A JOURNEY....



AND I MADE IT BY
THE SKIN OF MY TEETH.