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2021

Drama 111: Theater Design Final Project- Reimagine a Film as a Broadway Musical

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DRAMA 111 SUMMER 2021
FINAL PROJECT
REAR WINDOW: THE MUSICAL
80 points

You and your team have just been hired to design the Broadway adaptation of Hitchcock's suspense classic *REAR WINDOW*, written by Lin Manuel-Miranda. This new production will be set in Queens of 2021, the post-pandemic era, and feature a diverse cast of stars. You need to come up with a unique concept that captures the mystery and tension of the original film, combined with the vibrancy of contemporary Queens.

Your PRINCIPLE CAST:

LB JEFFRIES: Henry Golding
STELLA: Chita Rivera
LISA FREEMONT: Janelle Monae
LARS THORWALD: Danny Burstein
DETECTIVE DOYLE: Daveed Diggs

NEIGHBORHOOD FOLK:

Mrs. Thornwald, Miss Torso the Ballet Dancer, Miss Lonelyhearts, Piano Man, Sunbather, Window Lady, Newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Dog in a Basket

For the final presentation you should present the following material:

COSTUME DESIGNER:

- Research (Historical and Inspirational)
- [NEIGHBORHOOD BOX](#) (presented in class June 21st)
- Costume Sketches for: LB, LISA, STELLA, THORWALD, and AT LEAST 3 NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERS (one of which can be the detective, see the list above, or you can propose another choice BEFORE the project is due. You can change the gender of any of the neighborhood folk)
 - Costume sketches must be full length (head to toe) and in color
- You must be present in class on JUNE 30th to present your work

SCENIC DESIGNER:

- Research (Historical and Inspirational)
- [NEIGHBORHOOD BOX](#) (presented in class June 21st)
- Rough Groundplans for how the set will lay out in the [GOLDSTEIN THEATER](#)
- Model or Sketches for: LB's Apartment and The Courtyard, detail of Thorwald's apartment and one other space
 - Sketches must be detailed and in color

- Sketches and ground plan must be provided to show how the space transforms
- You must be present in class on JUNE 30th to present your work

LIGHTING DESIGNER:

- Research (Historical and Inspirational)
- [NEIGHBORHOOD BOX](#) (presented in class June 21st)
- Lighting sketches for: Opening, The Murder of Mrs. Thorwald, Miss Torso's party or Piano Man's dinner party, the final confrontation, and 3 other moments
 - Lighting sketches must be specific to your set design partner's set and in color
- You must be present in class on JUNE 30th to present your work

These projects must be detailed and specific to your vision of how the movie will be transformed into a Broadway musical. It should feel rich and specific to Queens. You will be graded on the following:

1. A complete project. Incomplete projects will be accepted but the grade will reflect the missing elements.
2. Understanding of the source material
 - a. You will not be able to complete this project successfully without viewing the film. Your design will not be specific enough if you base it on googling the name of the movie. You have been warned.
3. Originality of the approach
 - a. How have you put a new spin on the original story?
 - b. How have your updates connected or commented on the original and how it relates to people in NYC today?
4. Clarity of the storytelling
5. Specificity of research- meaning that the research and design fit the characters, spaces, and circumstances
 - a. For lighting this means that you are making specific choices that clearly enhance the mood and storytelling
6. Collaboration- are the three designs harmonious?
7. Use of color, texture, line, shape, harmony, and opposition within your design and across the collaboration.
8. Progress from your earlier work in class
 - a. Have you improved?
 - b. Have you incorporated earlier feedback?
9. Oral presentation of the work during the final class
 - a. Is your presentation clear and organized?
 - b. Are your materials ready to present?
 - c. Do your stated ideas and themes match the visuals that accompany the presentation?

While collaboration is an important element of this project, your work will be graded on what you accomplish as an individual. If one of your partners is not keeping up their part of the collaboration, you can move ahead without them and you will not be penalized for doing so. Conversely, remember (especially set designers) that balancing your responsibilities to your collaborators with your individual timeline for finishing is an essential part of being a designer.

This project counts for 20% of your final grade.