

Kelly Fleming

Fadi Skeiker

Directing III

05 May 2020

### Directing III Final Reflection

I don't know how to feel about Beckett. I think I hate him. But I also think I might love him? So for now, I'm just gonna thank him for the challenge. Absurdism is a style that I am always working to wrap my head around; it hasn't sunk in as easy as Naturalism or Romanticism did. Hearing that we were going to Beckett freaked me out a little. Directing a piece in a writing style I did not fully understand while also articulating a vision to my audience and my actors was quite a challenge to take on.

Looking back, I wish I had taken more time to choose a piece. I admittedly did not read much Beckett before picking *Play*. I was intimidated by the language often and *Play* made sense to me right away. The more I read the play the more I understood and got excited about it. But it wasn't a very challenging text. While I was able to chat about the text with my actor and mine out some conversations leaning on larger themes, none of the discussions or table work sessions really brought us to a different level of understanding the text. It kept on wanting to talk about it with nothing to really talk about; it got to be a little frustrating.

I didn't know what to expect from this semester; even my wildest expectations could not have been even close to what it ended up being. But if there is anything that this class, in

particular, taught me, it is the importance of adaptability. When we had to go online, it was heartbreaking. I was actually very excited to see what this would have been with my original live concept. However, I am very proud of what actually came out of this project. My concept as a whole was very easy to translate into a radio play and was almost deepened by this medium. Adding a new stylistic frame to the piece-- the addition of a tape player in the beginning and end-- deepened the themes of voyeurism and the cyclical storyline of an affair.

While having to serve as my own actor, I realized how important the collaboration between actor and director is. As I was working, I would find myself generating questions about vision, pacing, intention, etc. only to realize that I had to generate the answer as well. While this decision was made out of necessity, it inevitably stifled the growth of the piece as it only had one creative point of view. I am still very satisfied with the end result, but will always be curious about what would have happened if the semester continued in person.

Overall, I would call this semester a success. I learned that I can handle something that challenges and scares me while also creating something to be proud of. I can see Beckett coming back in my life in the future, but for now, I'm glad we got to spend a little bit of time together.