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I Don't Have a Clue: A First-Time Director's Guide by a First-Time Director

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The background is a stylized theater stage. At the top, there are red, scalloped curtains. Two spotlights are positioned on either side of the center, casting a warm, yellowish light onto the stage. The stage floor is a solid orange color. In the foreground, the tops of several rows of red theater seats are visible.

I Don't Have a Clue.

A First-Time Director's Guide
by a First-Time Director

An Honors Thesis
by Isabella Owen



Background

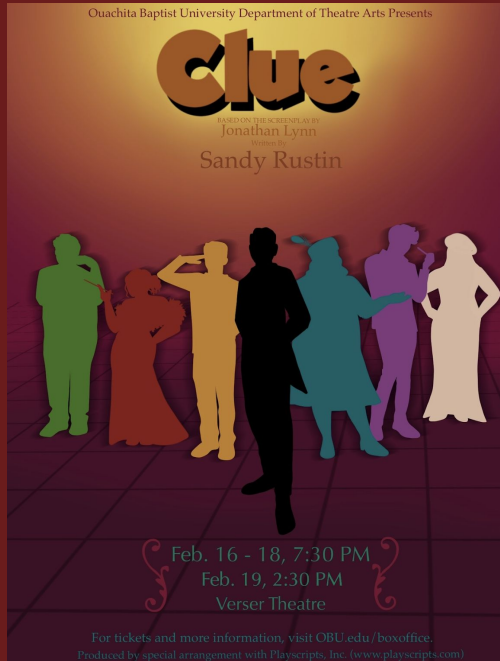
I was given the opportunity to direct the 2023 MUSE Project, *Clue*. All of the resources I was recommended were written by experienced professionals. They had all mastered their craft, and I didn't even know where to start. I decided to write this because it was something I wish I had..

A stylized illustration of a theater stage. Red curtains with a scalloped edge frame the stage. Two spotlights, one on the left and one on the right, cast a warm, yellowish light onto the stage floor. The stage floor is a light orange color, and the background behind the curtains is a dark red. In the foreground, the tops of several rows of red theater seats are visible.

Introduction

Who Am I and What Am I Doing?

Who Am I and What Am I Doing?



- Director of the 2023 MUSE Project
- A first-time director
- Writing a survival guide for other first-time directors
- I am grossly unqualified to tell somebody how to direct.

The image depicts a theater stage with red curtains. Two spotlights are positioned on the left and right sides of the stage, casting beams of light towards the center. The text "Chapter One" is written in white, and "Casting and Crewing" is written in yellow below it. The stage floor is a light orange color, and the foreground shows the tops of several red theater seats.

Chapter One

Casting and Crewing

Casting and Crewing

Casting:

- Planning the audition process
- Sending out audition information
- Holding auditions
- Holding callbacks
- Creating the cast list

Crewing



CLUE

Your Suspects Are:

- WADSWORTH - Mac Ricks
- YVETTE - Maddy Moore
- MISS SCARLET - Amaya Hardin
- MRS. PEACOCK - Julia Letcher
- MRS. WHITE - Erin Bagley
- COLONEL MUSTARD - Thomas Lilley
- PROFESSOR PLUM - Noah Warford
- MR. GREEN - Kinder Hinrichs
- COOK - Kenzie Tatum
- TAP DANCING TELEGRAM GIRL - Marioni Webb
- AUXILIARY SCARLET/BACKUP COP - Tyranni Hubbard
- ENSEMBLE MAN 1 - Jonah Morgan
- ENSEMBLE MAN 2 - Tom Huston
- YVETTE UNDERSTUDY - Halle Jones
- SCARLET UNDERSTUDY - Grace Woodward
- PEACOCK UNDERSTUDY - Sarah Franklin
- WHITE UNDERSTUDY - Abby Burlison
- ENSEMBLE WOMAN SWING (COOK, TELEGRAM GIRL, AUXILIARY SCARLET, and BACKUP COP) - Kieran Malmer
- ENSEMBLE MAN 1 and 2 SWING/DEAD BODY - Dalton Lunday



Chapter Two

Rehearsals

Rehearsals

The Rehearsal Schedule

- Structuring the rehearsal
- Making the schedule
- Changes in the schedule

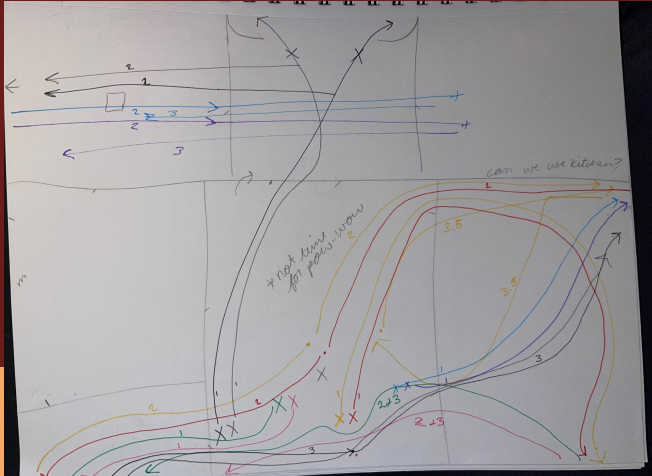
Running the Rehearsal

- Leading
- Dealing with conflict
- Blocking
- Giving notes





Day	Date	Time	Rehearsal
Wednesday	January 18	6pm-10pm	Read-Through and Tablework
Thursday	January 19	6pm-10pm	Block Scene 1 (pages 7-15)
Friday	January 20	6pm-10pm	Block Scene 2 (pages 16-21) and Scene 3 (pages 21-28)
Monday	January 23	6pm-10pm	Finish Blocking Scene 3 (pages 28-34)
Tuesday	January 24	6pm-10pm	Block Scene 4 (pages 34-38), Scene 5 (pages 36-38), and Scene 6 (pages 39-44)
Wednesday	January 25	6pm-10pm	Block Scene 7 (pages 45-46), Scene 8 (pages 46-48), and review/run Scenes 1-8 (pages 7-48) OFF-BOOK
Thursday	January 26	6pm-10pm	Clean Scenes 1-8 (pages 7-48)
Friday	January 27	6pm-10pm	Block Scene 9 (pages 49-51), Scene 10 (pages 51-52), and Scene 11 (pages 52-61)
Monday	January 30	6pm-10pm	Finish Blocking Scene 11 (pages 52-61), Scene 12 (pages 61-62), and Scene 13 (pages 62-64)
Tuesday	January 31	6pm-10pm	Block Scene 14 (pages 64-78)
Wednesday	February 1	6pm-10pm	Finish Blocking Scene 14 (pages 64-78) and review/run Scenes 9-14 (pages 49-78) OFF-BOOK
Thursday	February 2	6pm-10pm	Clean Scenes 9-14 (pages 49-78)
Monday	February 6	6pm-10pm	Run/Clean
Tuesday	February 7	6pm-10pm	Run/Clean
Wednesday	February 8	6pm-10pm	Run/Clean
Thursday	February 9	6pm call	Crew View
Friday	February 10	6pm call	Dry Tech (actors not called)
Saturday	February 11	10am-10pm	Tech w/actors
Sunday	February 12	2pm call	Dress Rehearsal
Monday	February 13	6pm call	Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday	February 14	6pm call	Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday	February 15	6pm call	Dress Rehearsal
Thursday	February 16	7:30pm go	Show #1
Friday	February 17	7:30pm go	Show #2
Saturday	February 18	7:30pm go	Show #3
Sunday	February 19	2:30pm go	Show #4 and STRIKE!



The image depicts a theater stage with red curtains. Two spotlights are positioned on the left and right sides of the stage, casting beams of light towards the center. The text "Chapter Three" is written in a large, white, rounded font, and "Behind the Scenes" is written below it in a smaller, yellow, rounded font. The stage floor is a light orange color, and the foreground shows the tops of several red theater seats.

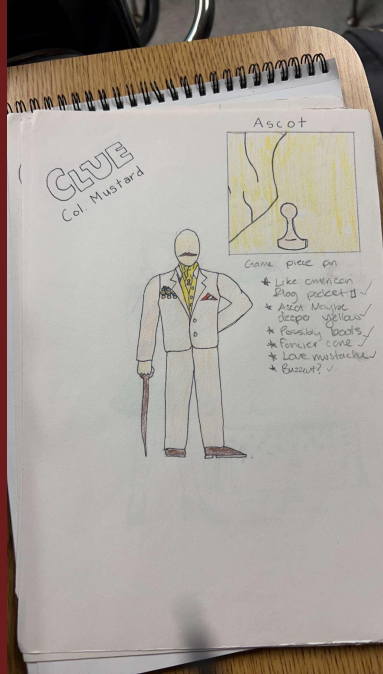
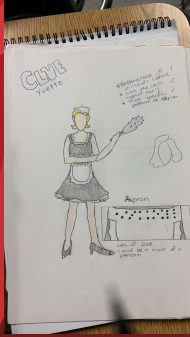
Chapter Three

Behind the Scenes

Behind the Scenes



- Stage managers
- Props
- Costumes
- Set
- Lights
- Sound







Chapter Four

Putting It All Together

Putting It All Together

Tech Week

- Dry tech
- Cue to cue
- Dress rehearsals





Chapter Five

Letting It All Go

Letting It All Go



- Trusting the work you've done
- Trusting your cast and crew
- Enjoying the final product



Conclusion

Who Are You and What Are You Doing?

Who Are You and What Are You Doing?

- Expect the unexpected
- Be confident
- Remember your passion





Thank You!