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Freesia: How I Wrote My First Short Play

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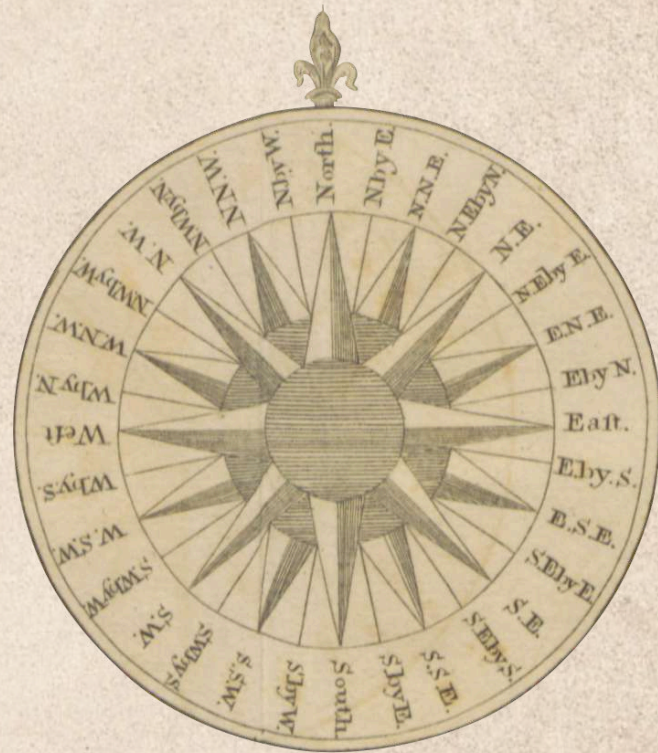
Freesia:
How I Wrote My First
Short Play



Abby Burlison

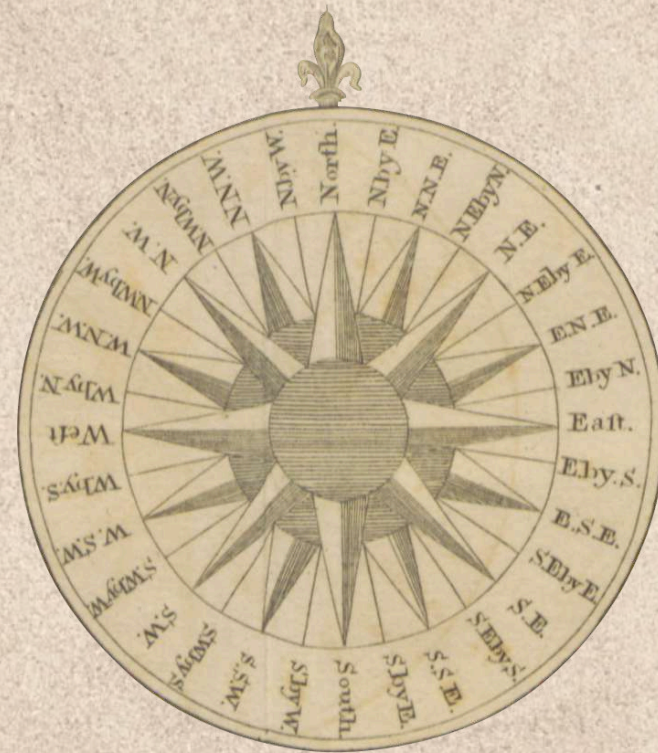


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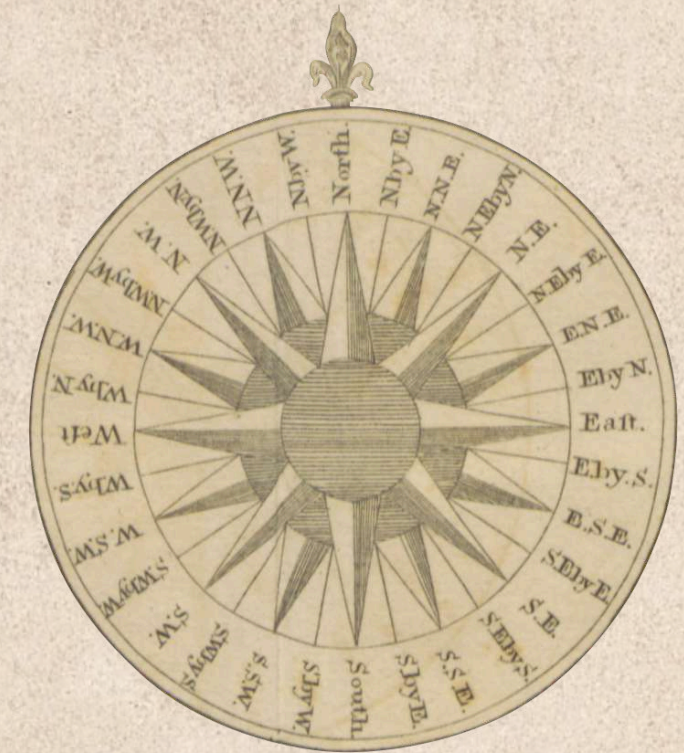
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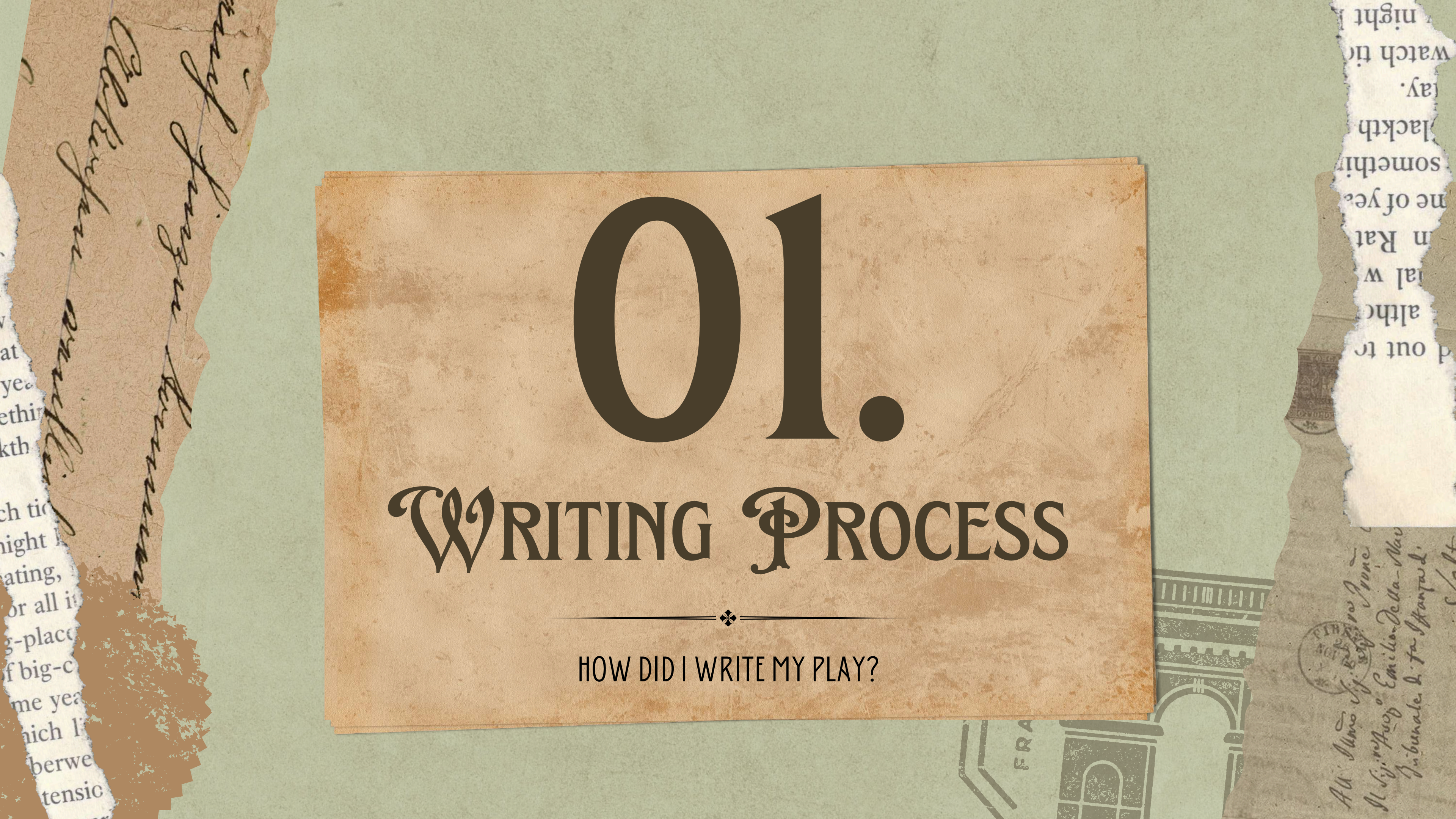
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01.

WRITING PROCESS

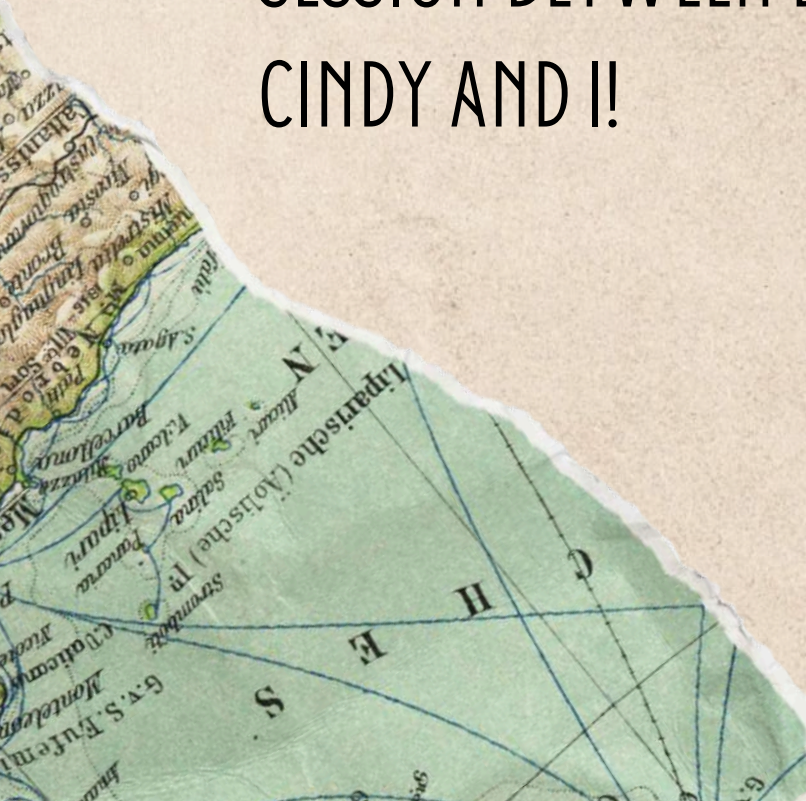
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HOW DID I WRITE MY PLAY?



WHAT IS FREESIA?

FREESIA BEGAN AS A WORLDBUILDING SESSION BETWEEN BY BEST FRIEND CINDY AND I!

THE FIRST TIME FREESIA WAS WRITTEN IN PLAY FORM WAS A 10-MIN PLAY FOR INTRO TO THEATRE 2020. IT WAS THEN REVISED AND PERFORMED AT ALL NIGHT THEATRE 2023.





SUMMARY

FRESIA FOLLOWS MARLOWE, THE FIRST MATE OF THE SIREN SONG, AND AN UNLIKELY CREW OF PIRATES WHO BAND TOGETHER AND TRY TO UNCOVER THE MYSTERY BEHIND A CAPTAIN'S SECRET DEALINGS. THE CREW IS BROUGHT TOGETHER THROUGH DIFFERENT TRIALS AND ARE FORCED TO DETERMINE WHAT LOYALTY MEANS TO THEM.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

GOLDEN AGE OF PIRACY

- 1650-1730
- PIRACY ABUNDANT IN NORTH ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN

ROLES

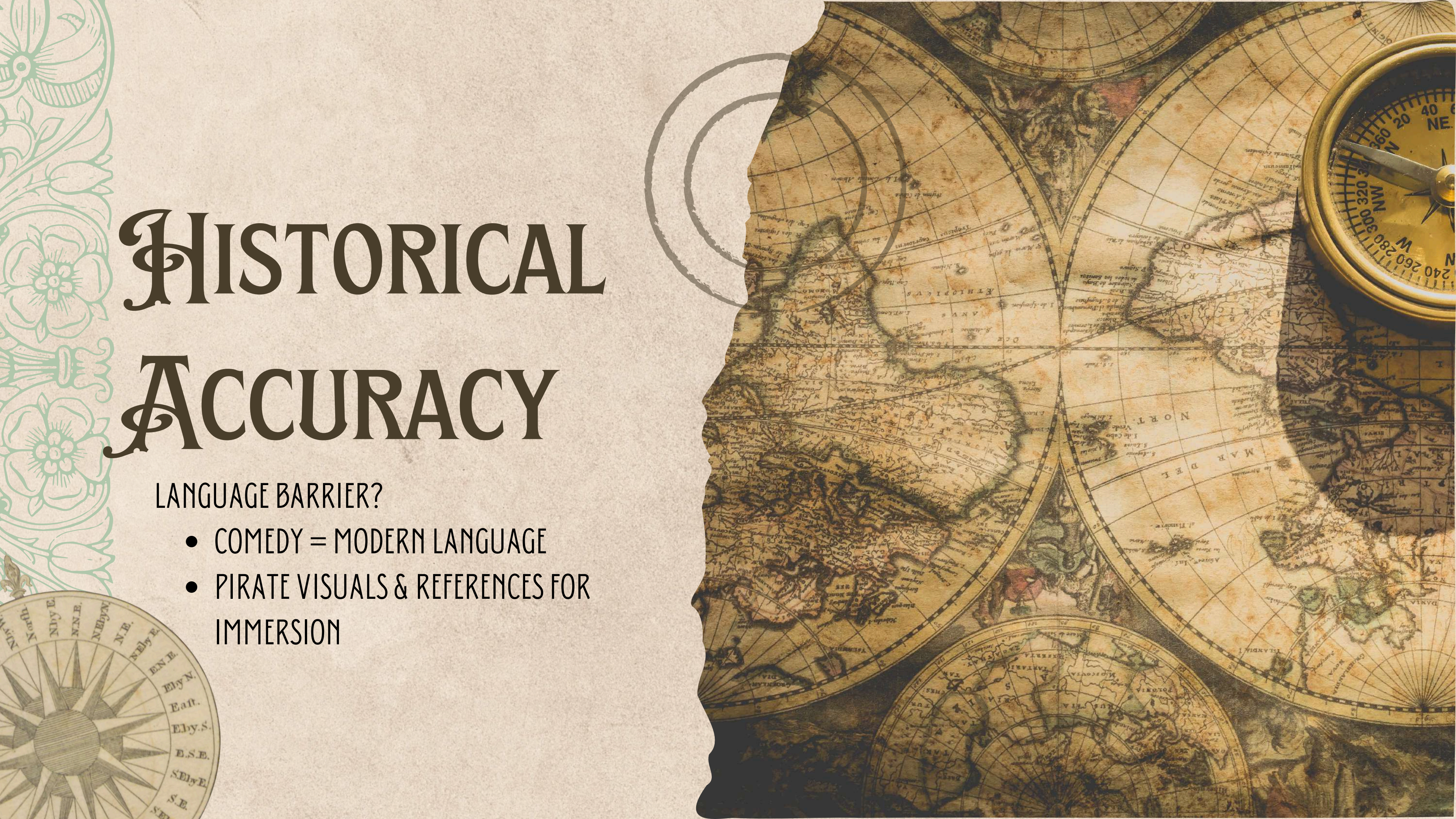
- BUCCANEER - PIRATE IN THE CARIBBEAN (MARLOWE)
- PRIVATEER - SAILOR IN PRIVATELY OWNED SHIP (SOLEIL & THEODRAH)

ADAPTATIONS

- PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
- CUTTHROAT ISLAND

FAMOUS FIGURES

- CAPTAIN KIDD
- BLACKBEARD
- ANNE BONNY
- HENRY MORGAN



HISTORICAL ACCURACY

LANGUAGE BARRIER?

- COMEDY = MODERN LANGUAGE
- PIRATE VISUALS & REFERENCES FOR IMMERSION

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

LOVE YOUR CHARACTERS!

- FIRST STEP IN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: LOVE YOUR CHARACTERS!

CHARACTER NAMES

- MARLOWE - RENAISSANCE
- SOLEIL - FRENCH FOR "SUN"
- KRİKORIAN - FUNNY STORY!
- MARLOWE & SOLEIL - SUN AND MOON - PARADOX

DOSSIERS

- DYNAMIC CHARACTERS BY NANCY KRESS
- KNOW MOTIVATIONS, BUT ALSO SMALL DETAILS! THOSE WILL HELP BRING YOUR CHARACTER TO LIFE



STORYBOARD

EXPOSITION

- Marlowe disembarking *Siren Song*, meeting Soleil in the market/port
 - Merchant selling flowers (freesia motif #1)
- Introduce Theodrah from Soleil's crew
- Tour of *Siren Song* (stage could be 1/2 or 1/3 ship, other market/port?)
- Meet Marlowe's captain, get a feel for crew dynamics

CLIMAX

- The Freesia crew confronts and battles Marlowe's captain
- Marlowe's captain stabs her - Soleil confesses to Marlowe
- Marlowe is forced to make a decision and apprehend her captain (with Freesia's help)
- Contract is destroyed, captain is marooned on nearby island
- 2nd mate sent into royal waters on *Siren Song*

CONFLICT/INCITING INCIDENT

- Marlowe and Soleil finds King's letter w/ seal proposing a meeting
- Soleil reads & brings to 2nd mate; 2nd mate reads, makes excuses of some threat to bring down ship
- Soleil doubts, convinces to Marlowe to begin investigation but Marlowe is hesitant
- Overhear crew talking about free day tomorrow because of captain leaving for meeting

FALLING ACTION

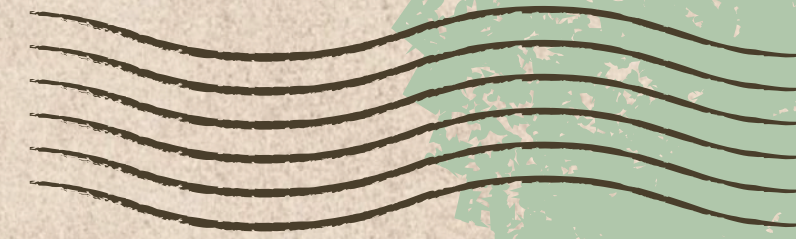
- Freesia crew returns to port from beginning on boat
- Decide to start own crew - found family trope
- Crew celebrates newfound community
 - Rycrow playing music, Theodrah warming up to crew
 - Soleil gives Marlowe freesia/puts it in her hair (freesia motif #3)

RISING ACTION

- Characters follow captain to secret meeting w/ royal advisor in tavern
 - Theodrah eavesdrops, learns of some contract & "transfer of crew"
- Looking for clues, run into 2nd mate who tries to throw them off trail
 - Meet Rycrow in town playing music for kids - take on crew
 - "Stop and smell the flowers" (freesia motif #2)
- Travel to neighbor island for Soleil royal advisor, learn the captain is selling crew
- Sea monster encounter on return. destroys part of *Siren Song*

RESOLUTION

- Corrupt captain is overthrown, Freesia are now their own crew
- Characters are stronger than they were before due to their travels and adventures
- Romance between Marlowe and Soleil; navigating new relationship





OBSTACLES & ENCOUNTERED

SHOW, DON'T TELL

IT'S VERY EASY TO SIMPLY GIVE YOUR AUDIENCE ALL THE INFORMATION. BUT THAT ISN'T INTERESTING! I FOUND MYSELF REVEALING INFORMATION THROUGH OBVIOUS DIALOGUE INSTEAD OF THREADING IT THROUGH THE ACTION.

CONFLICT

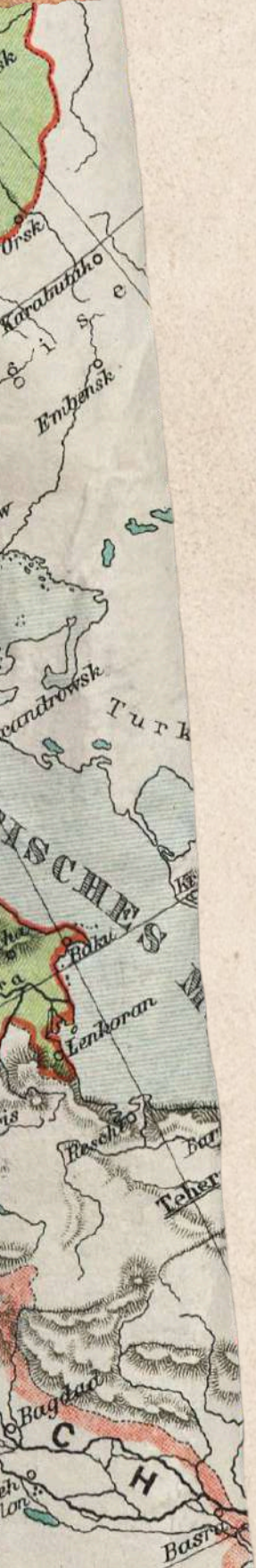
I LACKED INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT (CONFLICT BETWEEN PEOPLE) AT THE START. I ADDED MORE IN THE SECOND HALF TO RAISE THE STAKES AND TENSION.

CHARACTER MOTIVATION

TIP: ALWAYS ASK YOURSELF "WHY?" WHY THIS INFORMATION? WHY NOW? WHY THIS ACTION? THIS CLARIFIES MOTIVATION FOR YOU AND THE AUDIENCE.

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INSPIRATION BOARD



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02.

STAGED READING

HOW I USED A STAGED READING FOR FEEDBACK

CAST

- MARLOWE: JAYNE PECENA
- SOLEIL: BROOKS HARRISON
- THEODRAH: HALLE JONES
- RYCROW: RYDER ASHLOCK
- KRIKORIAN: CALEB GUMM

- LATCHELL: LOGAN BABEL
- MAXRIE: CHLOE COFER
- BOATSWAIN/MERCHANTS:
KENZIE TATUM
- DIRECTOR: GRACE WOODWARD
- STAGE DIRECTIONS: BRYNLEE
BEAMS

EXPERIENCE

PROCESS

- DRAFT READ OF THE SCRIPT WITH THE CAST – FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSION
- I MADE EDITS OVER A WEEK'S TIME
- 3 NIGHTS OF REHEARSAL WITH DIRECTOR GIVING BLOCKING AND NOTES
 - I GAVE OCCASIONAL NOTES
- TIP: READ YOUR DIALOGUE OUT LOUD! YOU'LL LEARN WHAT SOUNDS AWKWARD

OFFICIAL READING

- THE OFFICIAL READING TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 29TH, 2024 IN VERSER THEATRE
- THE CAST PUT IN A LOT OF HARD WORK AND LATE NIGHTS AFTER ANASTASIA REHEARSALS!
- THE AUDIENCE GAVE A LOT OF HELPFUL FEEDBACK
 - I PLAN ON USING SOME OF IT TO HELP EXPAND FREESIA IN THE FUTURE!



CAST PHOTOS!



FREESIA

By Abby Burlison

*"A ONE ACT
PLAY THAT
WILL WHISK
YOU AWAY ON
A PIRATE
ADVENTURE!"*

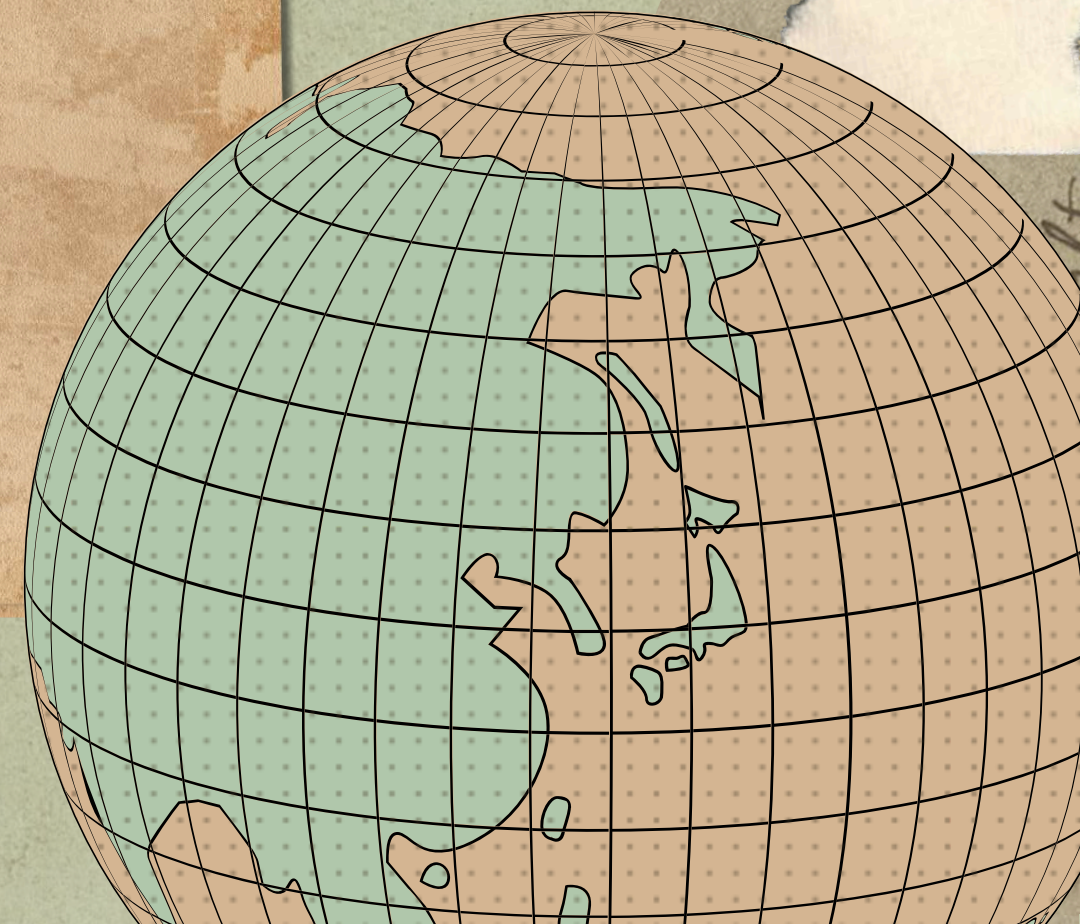


GRAPHIC BY BRYNLEE BEAMS

03.

CONCLUSION

FINAL THOUGHTS & INSIGHTS





CONCLUSION

VALUABLE PROCESS

WRITING A PLAY IS NO EASY FEAT! IT REQUIRES DISCIPLINE AND VULNERABILITY.



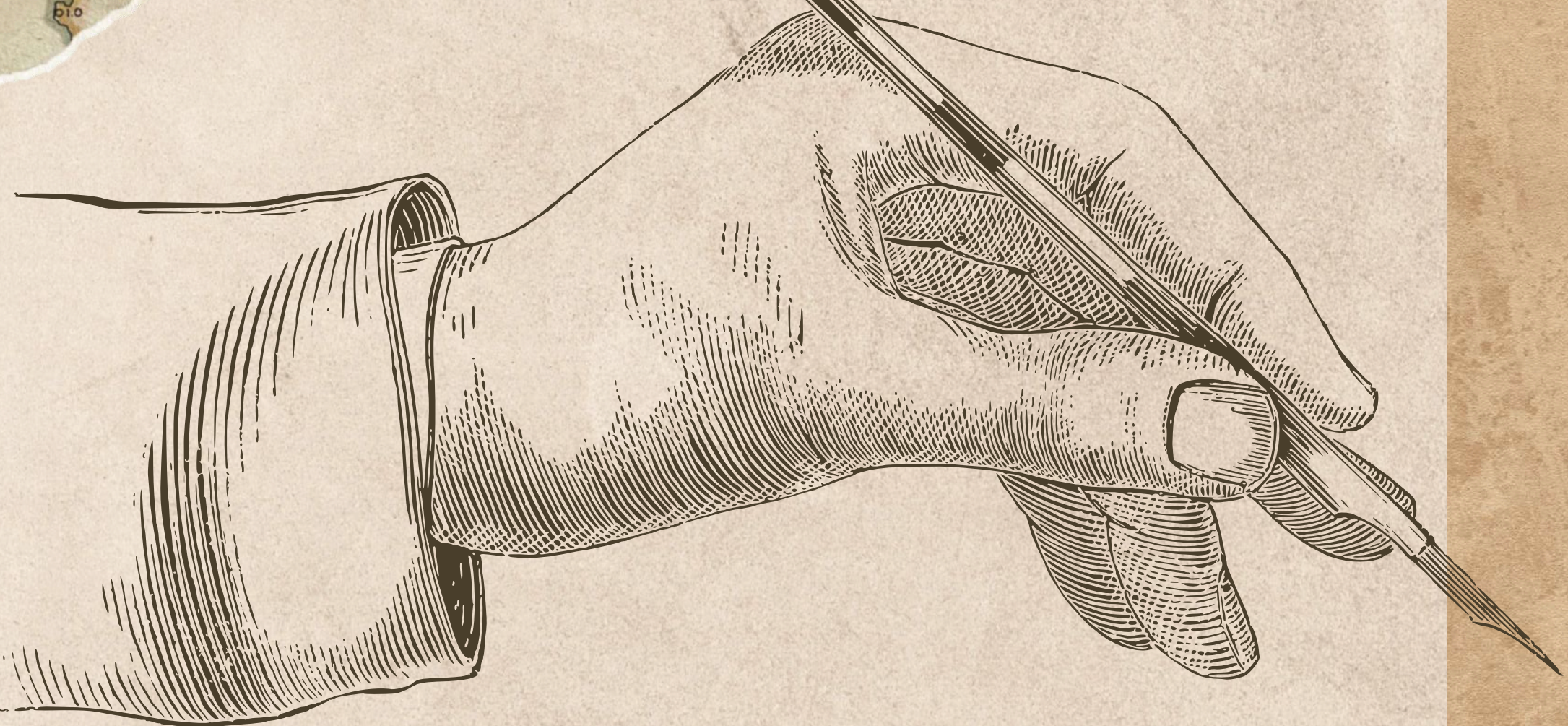
EXPERIENCE

I GAINED A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE FROM MY DIRECTED STUDY WITH ADAM WHEAT AND DRAMA THEORY WITH ERIC PHILLIPS.



FEEDBACK

PUTTING YOUR WORK IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE IS INTIMIDATING, BUT VERY MUCH WORTH IT! BEING VULNERABLE IS PART OF THE PROCESS.





THANK YOU!

HERE'S TO A NEW ADVENTURE!

QUESTIONS?

