

Direct a scene for drama performance

| | Student Evidence |
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| Analysis | <p>Act 3 of Moliere's <i>The Miser</i> translated by Ranjit Bolt.</p> <p>I have chosen to direct Act 3 of Moliere's <i>The Miser</i>. In this act Harper has arranged for his daughter, Eleanor and fiancé, Marianne to go on a "window shopping spree". He is trying to get a cheap meal for them. Victor, who is pretending to be Harper's butler, is sucking up to him by saying he can arrange a cheap feed. He conflicts with Jack, another servant, and beats him up. When Marianne arrives, Charlie talks to her as if he dislikes her as a potential step mum, but he sounds as if he's making love to her. He gets at his father by charging expensive food to his account and gives Harper's diamond ring to Marianne. (1)</p> <p>Moliere was a 17th Century French playwright. He was influenced by the Commedia dell'Arte so the characters of <i>The Miser</i> are like the stock characters of the Commedia. Such as Harper, the Miser. He is like Pantalone. (2)</p> <p>Harper wants Marianne as a trophy wife but expects her to bring money to the marriage. He wants his daughter Eleanor to marry Sir Arthur for his money. He only cares about his money but he still has that fatherly love deep deep down but his true love is his money.</p> <p><u>Character Development</u> Harper does not change in attitude. Marianne, the young woman who loves Harper's son, Charlie, is a casual normal girl with an invalid mum. Marianne would marry Harper if her mother wanted her to. Charlie, Harper's son, loves and wants to marry Marianne. He is disgusted at Harper for wanting Marianne. But, with help from Fletcher, he stands up to his father and turns his miserliness against him through blackmail. His genes come from Harper and he is a chip of the old block. Eleanor, Harper's daughter, nearly died in a snowdrift but was saved by Victor . She loves Victor and is disgusted at Harper for wanting her to marry Sir Arthur. Jack is the chauffeur and cook of Harper and is the only one who is really loyal to Harper. He has a split personality and has to keep changing hats. The chauffeur is a cockney and gets himself into trouble. The cook is calm, collected rational and post English. Victor is Harper's butler and loves Eleanor. He is a suck up to his boss. Fay is the matchmaker. She is in the middle, on the side of Harper and Marianne. Harper refuses to help her out with her court case. Sir Arthur is Harper's "friend" and comes in at the end to bring sanity. He is not in the act but is talked about to keep Eleanor stressed</p> |

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| | <p><u>Elements</u> The focus of Act 3 is the meeting of Harper and Marianne. A symbol is the ring which Charlie takes from him to give to Marianne. Harper loses some of his power over them when he loses his ring. He is actually hurt by the sentimental loss which reminds him of his beloved wife. But he uses it as emotional blackmail against Charlie. The scene should be played awkwardly because everyone is disgusted by something. Everyone is disgusted at Harper but they can't show it. So audience has to see in a way the audience can see it but Harper can't. This makes it tense and funny.</p> |
| Concept | <p>Act 3 is based around the introduction of Harper and Marianne and I feel it should be played more awkward than anything because everyone knows that Marianne doesn't want anything to do with Harper but Fay is trying to make Marianne get with Harper because she will become very rich after he dies and she will be able to support her mum. Space was restricted by the small raised stage. Everyone was in everyone's face. They are so close that one argument gets another going. Like a real family in a state of tension. Set was flats which looked like an aristocratic house. Costumes suggested the characters. Harper's was old man pants, cardigan and a bald cap. He leaned on his stick making himself look ugly. Lighting was bright but when a character gave an aside some footlights came up to show the comment was an inner thought. (3)</p> |
| Process | <p><u>Casting</u> Chanel is a littler girl than most so she can play a vulnerable girl who's sweet and innocent and loves her mummy very much. Beau can change his voice perfectly to fit the winey complaining voice of Charlie. Molly is a sweet English-looking girl on the outside but an extremely powerful dragon on the inside – perfect for Eleanor. Dave is very good at playing lots of different people in a very short time. Also very good at improvising so there's never a dull moment when Dave's on stage. Joseph can change his voice to fit the suck up to Harper. Every time someone else talks to him his voice changes quite differently.</p> |