

Newsletter

Department of Foreign Languages & Applied Linguistics • National Taipei University

May 13



The 5th Annual Play of FLAL “NOISES OFF”

應外三 何函霓

林文婷

The Colors Tell the Stories of Every Character

This year, our annual play has a specific way to represent itself. Each character in this play has a color to stand for him/her. In this way, the traits of each character can be presented more vividly to the audience.

We interviewed these performers to understand more about how the colors echo to their characters and affect their performance.

Lloyd (starring Jerry Chung (張明捷)): The director

of the play

“Nothing On.” Black shows that he maintains the manners and disciplines of the theater. He gives his crew instructions and guides them as what he wants. Jerry described he character to us: “He is strict to these actors and actresses and sticks to his rules. He hopes that the crew can have a great performance by themselves.” For example, when Dotty speaks out the wrong lines, he would scold her. Also he is sophisticated and diplomatic. We can find these characteristics easily especially when he is dealing with his affairs with the other two female characters in the play, Vicki and Poppy.

Dotty/Mrs. Clackett (starring Audrey Lee(李佩華)): In “Nothing On,” she is Mrs. Clackett. Her color is orange which indicates that she is outstanding, exaggerative

and not

conventional. Therefore when she has quarrels with others, her anger will be very explosive and loud. She hopes she can gather other people’s attentions on herself. For example, when she is sad, she would get Frederick to comfort him. Although this trait often makes Gary envious, it also appeals Gary strongly. “Dotty is middle-aged and a bit blundering. When rehearsing, I often remind myself of that in order to express her characteristic more vividly,” Audrey explained.

Belinda/Flavia (starring Lydia Lee (李佩倫)): Her color in this play is green, which implies that her characteristic is peaceful. She always tries to keep the crew at peace. Therefore she manages to care about everybody’s life so



that she can make the atmosphere better. As a result, she becomes meddlesome and gossipy. For example, she tells Lloyd that Garry has an affair with Dotty and Frederick's wife left him one morning. Lydia said, "You can also find out that she often takes care of Frederick because she likes him. Therefore when Frederick talks with Dotty, you can find she is jealous."

Frederick/Philip (Wesley Liu (劉星辰)): In "Nothing On," he is a cunning play writer who evades taxes. Off stage, he has a characteristic of femininity. He is tender, thoughtful and often takes care of Dotty. These images make him show up in an all-purple business suit. When he meets some violent situations his nose would bleed. Wesley said, "You can find Belinda often cares about me." Compared with Belinda, he is much less aggressive. He listens to what Belinda says and Belinda treats him like her kid.

Garry/Roger (starring Ozzy Chien (簡哲啟)): In "Nothing on," he is a real estate agent. His color is brown and that shows that he is practical and follows the prescribed orders. Ozzy said, "He always thinks Brook is very troublesome and makes mistakes frequently." In act 3, Dotty often speaks out the wrong lines out of anger and Gary will try to amend the

errors. Due to the insufficiency of education, he lacks of self-confidence. As a result, he always wants to let others believe that he is clever and intelligent but actually he is not.

Brooke/Vicki (starring Jamie Wu (吳怡蓉)): A young and attractive girl. In "Nothing on," she shows up in a red dress, which is a sexual hint and also expresses that she is sexy. She and Garry have some intimate interactions which lead her to take off her dress later. Her underwear is white, which indicates that actually she is pure and simple-minded off stage. Lloyd has an affair with her but she doesn't know that Lloyd also likes Poppy. Jamie told us her thought about this role: "At the very beginning, I persuaded myself for a long time to accept the role.

Compared with Brook, Vicki is far more difficult for me. I need to flirt with Garry even in the underwear!"

Selsdon/Burglar (starring Eugene Yuann (苑譽騰)): His color in this play is grey. He is an old man and plays a burglar in this play. He loves drinking so we can find that he often chases the whiskey. In addition to his problem in listening, he is usually the outsider of the whole situation. He is like a man who is always in the intermediate zone and the grey color can represent this characteristic best. Eugene said,

"Although his character is similar to mine, the gap of our ages is huge. I am the oldest man in the play. It is a hard work...the tone, the speed of talking and the action."

Tim (starring Michael Wu (吳曉翰)): His color is dark yellow, which represents the spirit of yellow dogs. He is loyal to Lloyd and is responsible for what he should do. As a stage assistant, he repairs the furniture and runs errands for Lloyd. However, he is too young and isn't well-experienced, so he makes mistakes very often. As for the most difficult part, Michael said, "Because of Tim's character, he walks clumsily and awkwardly. It's really unnatural and totally different from mine. Therefore, it takes me a lot of time to know how to do that."

Poppy (starring Daphne Lin (林文婷)): Her color in this play is khaki. She is the stage manager who assists Lloyd in this play. "She is very austere and discreet on the stage," Daphne explained. She tries to keep the play as the script goes. However, although she knows Lloyd's affair with Brooke, she can't complain to anyone. Her rage accumulates as the plot goes. At the end, she can't help but howl that "she is pregnant." Daphne said, "I am a person who likes to laugh and is easily triggered to laugh. Therefore, it is not easy for me to express her

depressed personality.”

After reading the detailed profile of all the characters in our annual play, can you get the idea of “colors tell the story”? And do you relish it? We hope all of you can enjoy *Noises Off* and have a great time. After all, only with your appreciation, will our endeavors and painstaking efforts pay off that we are able to smile from the bottom of our hearts!



應外

三 沈玟均 Jessie

湯琦均 Mavis

Tears and Laughter Behind the Curtain

—The Interview of Executive producers

As everyone knows, to be a leader is never an easy task. When you see the photos of the producers of the annual play, you may wonder how the two girls deal with this job well? “I firmly believe that as long as everyone tries one’s best, there’s nothing we cannot accomplish.” Lydia (李佩倫), the executive producer of the department’s 5th annual play *Noises Off*, says with her usual sweet smile. Being an excellent coordinator, and a good time-controller, Lydia overcame those difficulties. However,

there is an important character behind the executive producer, the vice producer, Amanda (趙尊立). As we know, Lydia plays a double role, one is the executive producer, and the other is the performer in *Noises Off*. Whenever she was overwhelmed by her full rehearsal schedule, Amanda took everything over “like a prince saving princess,” says Lydia.



As we

mentioned above,

Lydia has taken the responsibility as both the leader of all the production groups and performer in the annual play. There must be plenty of challenges for her to overcome. “Actually, I struggled at the very beginning when facing this decision,” Lydia tells us. Many seniors and friends dissuaded her from taking two arduous works at the same time. Nevertheless, after adjusting her uncertainty during the summer break, she felt competitively confident to handle the coming jobs. “When it comes, it comes. I am ready for all challenges,” she says, believe or not, her eyes shine with confidence when she says this. As a vice producer, Amanda is endowed with a vital responsibility as Lydia’s assistant. The reasons

why they make perfect cooperation are probably because of their unvoiced pact and the trust between each other. During this time, both of them have gained much priceless advice from professors and it did help a lot.

To producers, coordination is the hardest part. As the executive producer and vice producer, Lydia and Amanda have to keep an eye on the progress of every group. Initially, both of them encountered some difficulties, especially when the progress fell behind the schedule. “I supposed that all members knew the urgency of keeping up with schedule,” Amanda says, “but later I found that there’s a large gap between real situation and my presupposition.” Indeed, bringing things into practice is quite different from making plan. “Caught between being a stern authority or a nice classmate really bothers me,” Lydia frowns. However, after many discussions with many people, rules were established, schedule followed, and budget achieved. Lydia and Amanda, they have shown their great “momentum” to all of us. “Momentum is the spirit of our department, isn’t it?” Amanda says with her friskful laughing.

After telling us so much negative difficulties, Lydia and Amanda decide to share something inspiring to us. “As

the matter of fact, we got much fun in this job,” they both agree with this. Then, Amanda shares her feeling when she heard the public relations group reached the sponsor goal. Lydia says “I thought we have to do street show at Taipei Main Station, like playing the guitar or...” “Be a stripper!” Amanda says seriously, as if she is ready for that. “It is very exciting when we reach the budget, but there is nothing more than ecstasy when they got another thousand dollars! I even had the impulse to kiss the leader of public relations!” Amanda says. (To tell the truth, I was really scared when Amanda says so.) “I was happy all the time, especially when all groups were punctuate at the meeting!” Lydia nods. From this interview, we can conclude that this heavy job requires not only leadership and a strong will, but also an optimistic mind.

At the last part of the interview, Lydia speaks about her expectation about the annual play. “I really look forward to this great play; it stands for our teamwork and firm friendship. It might be the most important moment in our university memory,” says Lydia with her clear eyes. The performance is just around the corner. Juniors now are in the tense mood. If you meet these hard-working staff lately, don’t be stingy to give them some encouragement

and promise to show up. Also don’t forget to invite kith and kin to see the best ever annual play-*Noises Off* on May 26th, 27th!

應外

三 陳柏元

吳曉翰

Noises On!!- How Do These Three Noisy Directors

Lead the Cast?

A great play must need good directors. Without them, the best actors in the world may perform the worst play. In one month, there will be the most important presentation in our department—the annual play, *Noises Off*. Today, April 18,



2007, we have the great honor to interview the directors

of *Noises Off*. Kate (陳敬淳) is the director and assistant directors are Joyce (何佳蓉) and Kay (况施懿). Kate is a disciplined and strict director who will require actors and actresses to attain the standards she sets. Joyce and Kay, who are vigorous and full of energy, get along well with actors and actresses and bring happiness to them. You may wonder how these two different kinds of person can lead actors and actresses to perform an excellent show. So now, let’s

take a look at their story during the process of rehearsals.

Q1. Please talk about your feelings in the entire process.

Kate: At the beginning, I was full of energy. Every time when actors and actresses did not concentrate enough, I would be upset. Every time they made progress or listened carefully to what I said, I would be touched. It needs a great deal of patience in the whole process.

Q2. What difficulties have you met?

Kate: Practicing at home is what I emphasize, but some actors and actresses didn’t follow my instruction. That really made me frustrated. Besides, during the rehearsals, actors and actresses would chat with others and would not listen to my words. Sometimes even the assistant directors would do the same thing.

Joyce: About three months ago, actors and actresses seemed to have a bottleneck. They didn’t make any progress. At that time, three of us were very worried. Fortunately, they overcame the difficulties.

Kay: Sometimes they couldn’t follow our instructions. And that made us pretty frustrated.

Q3. So how did you solve these kinds of problems?

Kate: We keep expressing our thoughts through chatting until they can understand.

Joyce: When they felt confused, we took them to see movies or

plays. We think these things will help them in acting.

Kay: We chose some games to play during the practices to make them learn how to use their bodies and facial expressions properly.

Q4. Three of you are also in the script group. Would this experience help you during the directing?

Joyce: Yes, of course. Because we are more familiar with the script than actors and actresses, it will be easier for us to answer their questions.

Q5. How do you keep the discipline of the whole group?

Kate: If they were late, they would be fined. We think we should be the role model for them so we discipline ourselves first and hope that they will follow.

Q6. What do you learn from actors and actresses?

Kate: I've learned that we should try every approach to work things out; at least one of them will do.

Joyce: We should have love and patience when we're leading the group.

Q7. What's your most unforgettable experience?

Joyce: Once we were reading the script in *Mos Burger*, I think we were too loud that a lady came to us and shouted, "Please be quiet!" and left immediately. All of us were embarrassed and moved to a park nearby right

away.

Kay: In the winter vacation, we had a hot pot party to celebrate the end of the winter training. In the following few days,



we heard that there was a blackout in the floor we rehearsed. We still don't know whether we caused it or not. We would be very sorry if it was really our mistake.

Q8. What is your expectation for *Noises Off*?

Kate: The final performance must be better than any rehearsal!

Joyce: We should perform as best as we can and set a milestone for the following annual plays!

Kay: Every actor and actress stays in the best condition for the performance. I hope on that day there will be a lot of audience enjoying the show with us!

After the face-to-face interview, we found that being a director is not an easy job. Every day, they spend a lot of time staying at school and instructing the cast. They always have to be in the best condition or the cast will lose their direction. Answering questions from actors and actresses and counseling them when they have bottleneck or frustration are not only challenging but also tiring.

They really put a lot of efforts into the play. On May 26th and 27th, the show will be incredibly awesome for sure! Just put your things aside, come and be seated. The curtain will rise in...Shhhhh... "noises off"!!



陳筱芸 李品誼

The

Backstage

Heroines -

The Stage Managers

The stage managers of *Noises Off* are Gloria (于振亞) and Pan (潘于君). Both of them are very responsible and hard-working. The following are our interview with Pan.

Q: Which part are the stage managers responsible for?

A: What the stage managers are responsible for are the arrangement of rehearsals for the director and the actors, dealing with the stage properties or place, and the matters among the divided groups. My job was a little bit different from the director and the vice director. Basically, I was charged for the technical part and the recording of the blockings and the lines of the actors, while the director focuses on emotional expression.

Q: In the whole process, who or what help you the most?

A: I think it should be Jane Ku (古珍璋). I often forgot to make a cell to notify the players to rehearse. It's her who usually

reminds me to do so. I really appreciate her timely help very much.

Q: How do you communicate with the actors? Did you have any quarrel or disagreement with the actors?

A: The way I communicate with the actors is just to point out their mistakes directly. Most of the time, they would accept my reminder. Sometimes, they would have their own ideas. At that time, usually there would be two consequences. The actors would either adjust their annotation or we would make the decision after discussing with the directors together.

Q: What's your reflection of being a stage manager?

A: I think the biggest reward of being the stage manager is that I have cultivated a deep affection and a tacit agreement with everyone. Being a stage manager is not like the director who would have more quarrels with the actors. I hope I could control the arrangement of the staff and the time well until the end of the whole play to present to the audience the best performance at that day.

Q: What do you want to tell everyone?

A: It was not until going into the core of producing that I found how difficult it is to produce a lively drama on the stage. The pleasure and principle of how to produce a good drama is just like how the

audiences appreciate a good drama, and both of them could tell us many things of reality and fantasy of the world. For us, this drama has extraordinary meaning. The annual play presents the creation into which the whole class put our heart and soul. I believe everyone will enjoy this performance.

It was not until we interviewed with Pan did we realize the detail of the production of the coming play. She explained the parts that belong to the stage managers. We hope our interview will also help people to know more about the two backstage heroines. Just as Pan said in the interview, this play, *Noises Off*, is the creation into which the whole class put our heart and soul.



Everyone is looking forward to this play. And with the effort of the staff like them, it is undoubted that we will make a big harvest on May 26th and 27th.

Breaking News! What Are the Actors Doing in Rehearsal?!

The darkness unfolded before us when the elevator opened. Our hearts were beating faster and faster because we were all nervous and expectant. We moved slowly and quietly, not wanting to bother the rehearsal. Suddenly, some noises triggered our attention.

“Hao! Hao! Hao!...” What’s that sound? Where did that come from? Actually, it was the annual play actors doing their warm-ups! Before the beginning of rehearsal, everyone must do oral practice to make their voices clear and loud. What’s more interesting, we found that one of the players was out of tempo. It was Garry played by Ozzy (簡哲啟). He sometimes couldn’t follow other players’ tempo. It seemed our covertly coming surprised those players. It rested less than 20 days from now to the formal performance. In order to keep good voices, the director announced a rule. That is, avoiding any cold and spicy food and any stimulation to throats over one month before the formal performance.

Audrey’s (李佩華) fluent line soon drew our attention and let us to know that the rehearsal began. What we saw was almost perfect performance. It’s beyond our imagination. Actually, before this rehearsal, all the players had been sacrificing their holidays, weekends and even the rest time between classes. Every player is familiar to his or her characters, lines and stage positions and has done one’s best to this rehearsal. We looked around and expected their performance.

Lydia (李佩倫), who is both the executive producer and a performer, had a high level

performance. Her exaggerate gestures, dramatic actions and vivid facial expressions were full of influence and were “contagious.” Every player was so attentive in their characters that Ozzy did not even notice that his hair style was disarranged by the mischievous wind. However, it seemed to flavor some charm on him. It is said that while rehearsing, he often play with Wesley (劉星辰), who plays Frederick. It is a pity that we didn’t see them make fun of each other because of Wesley’s being sick. However, he still made effort to rehearse. Then we found that the performance of Eugene (苑譽騰) was so amusing. The character he played just accorded with his own personality, as if the role was set for him. His humorous and entertaining personality outpoured from every gesture and expression and made us laugh. He was just like the famous host, Zhu Ko Liang (豬哥亮) who had a gift for entertaining people in variety shows. Moreover, Joyce (何佳蓉), the vice director, who was taking notes while watching rehearsal, said that Eugene never acted the same in rehearsals, but his creativeness made this drama more vivid. Contrary to him, Zoba (林文婷), who plays Poppy, was asked to perform as a serious stage

assistant, but she sometimes could not help herself but laugh in the middle of rehearsing. Our emotions were up and down with the plots of the drama. While we laughed loudly with the funny plot and amusing action played by the actors and actresses, we noticed that one actor kept serious. It was Michael (吳曉翰), who played the role of an exhausted stage assistant. He stared at the rehearsal with solemn countenance. It seemed that he was thinking how to interpret his character better. Among the whole play, we can see that the “director” played by Jerry (張明捷) was always scolding at the actors in this play. His hoarse voice sometimes interweave with that of Jamie (吳怡瑤). She plays an oblivious role, Brooke, who always lost her contact lens while acting.

From the “spotlight on rehearsal” this time, we saw how each actor and actress dedicated themselves to this performance. The formal performance is on the corner, we could feel that all the players are very nervous, but their passion and expectation seemed much stronger than anything else. We sincerely believe that they will have a perfect performance.

應外三
錢彥中
周迺閱

Publicity and Art-

Follow Sardines to the Annual play!

After a long process with much hard work preparing for the annual play, the show is ready to be put on! In spite that the show will be really great, if there’s no audience, the play would be meaningless.

Therefore, one of the most important components of the annual play is “publicity.” To understand how the annual play team will publicize the play, we have interviewed the art director, the leader of art and publicity team, and the head website designer. From the interview, we understood that to have a good publicity, attractive and expansive advertisements are very important.

All the staff in annual play team are good at art designing. However, different people have different brains. At first, the annual play team didn’t have a consensus on the direction of art designing and the style of the

advertisements and the play, so the art director, Eugene Yuan (苑譽騰) helped combine and review all the ideas. Eventually the art designing of *Noises Off* was decided.

On a Tuesday morning, we met Eugene in the department office to conduct the interview.



He was wearing a comical red apron and was busy checking the stage properties and setting which will be used in the play. However, he was still wearing a smile on his face, and it seemed that he had a lot of fun doing it. When he had a break, he told us, “At first, everything was disordered. Therefore, I voluntarily took over this job to be a communicator and supervisor among groups. Through constant communications and discussions, we finally reached the same idea.” When he was asked what the idea is and how it attracts people to come to the show, he answered, “We want to present a “jungle” style, which is full of various bright colors and sounds. It is gorgeous, colorful, abundant but not messy. We think it will work! There are still much works to be done, but I believe we can achieve the goal, and the show will definitely be a great success!”

Through the help of Eugene, the direction of the style and art designing was set. And the most important part comes – “publicity.” To publicize the annual play efficiently, the art and publicity team will post posters, send invitation cards, and register the annual play message on the *Eslite Book Store Newsletter*. On the other hand, the website designers have constructed a

very attractive website and will post advertisements on many BBS websites.

The most obvious subject on the advertisements is “sardine.” It appeared not only on the poster, website, but also in the play and almost everywhere. Therefore, we were curious about how and why the mysterious sardine works, so we came to the leader of art and publicity, Honey Ho’s (何函霓) dormitory to get the answer.

When we entered the room, Honey was designing the poster of the annual play, and she seemed to enjoy herself. The model of the invitation cards lied on the table beside the poster, and we saw sardines and various vivid colors on the poster and invitation cards. To be frank, they were really fascinating! Then we asked her why there were sardines everywhere and she answered, “You can see sardines everywhere in each advertisement. It’s not just one or two; it’s in a mass number! Because using sardines as the theme of a play is quite unusual and awkward, people would be curious how and why sardines are so important, then they will come to see the show to find out why.” She added, “The toughest job through the whole work is to come up with the design of the posters and invitation cards. It is because they must be attractive, plus they must be

closely related to the theme of the play. However, with the help of Eugene, the posters and invitation cards was beautifully and successfully done at last. I really want to say “thank you” to him and everyone who helped.”

The other most important publicity channel is the website. The website designers have also faced many difficulties. “There weren’t anyone in the whole annual play team who is really good at constructing websites,” the head website designer, John Chyan (錢彥中) said, “so I decided to take over the job despite the fact that I am actually just a rookie to website making.” When we met him, he was just finishing an 8 hours of work on constructing the website. From his fatigue and exhausted look, we can understand that it was a really tough challenge for all of the designers. John told us, “It wasn’t an easy job while you have to learn website making and do everything, including gathering information, translating languages, and constructing the website within few months. At first, you come up with something, but people don’t like it, so you have to start all over again, from zero! That was the most annoying part. But I was lucky to have partners helping me to design it. After weeks of discussion on how the

website will look like, much work done and careful reviewing and correcting, the website was finally done! Although it was a really tiresome task, I think it worth it when people see and admire the website!" Then John showed us the website from his computer. The website is quite delicate, vivid and cute, and we were astonished that the website designers, a group of rookies, made such an attractive website.

After the interview, we've known how hard all of the teammates have worked to publicize the annual play. It would be a pity for you to not come, so just log on to our website

<http://www.ntpu.edu.tw/dafl/annualplay/> for further information. We are sure that as long as people see the website, the poster, and the invitation cards, they will surely come to the show. So, what are you still waiting for? Follow our sardines to the annual play!!

應外三 何

函霓 林文婷

The Backstage Magic Stick -

The Costume and Cosmetic Team

To stage a great and wonderful play, the costumes and the cosmetics wore on the characters are vital because those impress the audience directly and stand for the images and ideas which a

play intends to convey.

Therefore, the Costume and Cosmetic Team plays an important role behind the scene.

In a sunny cozy afternoon, we interviewed the leader of Costume and Cosmetic Team, Doris Huang (黃靜怡). The first question we asked her was about the profile of this team. She answered: "The jobs of the Costume and Cosmetic team include looking for suitable costumes, applying cosmetics on the characters, and designing the hairstyles of the characters on the stage." "Is there a particular and unique style of our annual play this year?" we asked. "The style of our annual play *Noises Off* is similar to that of the movie *Charlie and Chocolate Factory*. That means the stage style this year is colorful and varied." Doris said. Since *Noises Off* is a farcical comedy, our director tends to display it by using many different colors. "We not only use colors to decorate the whole stage, but also intersperse the characters with various colors to

make them look bright and cheery."

Doris added. As we know, every character in this play has his or her own special color; getting adaptable outfits

of every single color for each character is a difficult and challenging task.

After discussing with the

director and the characters about the kinds of clothes and outfits they are looking for, the members of Costume and Cosmetic Team started the "journey" of finding costumes. "It was such a tough and strenuous time. With limited time and budget, we couldn't live up to the expectations mostly in the beginning. We had been frustrated by repeated failures in hunting for costumes for a period of time." While we came up with the question: "What is the most difficult predicament all of you have encountered so far," Doris answered with a worried face. However, they didn't give up. They knew that they must accomplish this mission and overcome the difficulties by all means. Thus, all of them devoted themselves to this task. No matter searching for ideal items store by store or bidding online for what they wanted, they truly tried their best and did a good job.

At the moment, every detail, from accessories to the whole outfits, is prepared well and get ready. Now let us look forward to the fabulous show!

