Week of January 25, 2005

- Yippee, mask work! To be brutally honest I hate mask work. I hate how masks make me feel as an individual when I am acting in them. I have always been taught not to hide my emotions and I feel that this is exactly what happens when using masks. It also prevents me from truly allowing myself to get into a scene with wearing a mask. It also hinders me from allowing myself as an actor to accept my fellow scene partner seriously, too. When I allowed myself to watch the other scenes with masks, I believed and enjoyed watching them work. It was interesting to see them and how they interacted. Also with how they interacted on different levels, too. It was really interesting how many thought the one with the big cheeks were overly friendly or very sad. I think we all, as a class, have the same idea behind some of the ideas on how we perceive people in the outside to convey them onstage. I believe that we play into preconceptions and stereotypes quite a lot in theatre.

Week of February 1, 2005

- I hate the British dialect. It is so hard for me. I am so used to performing in a Hugh Grant British way. Damn Aunt Spiker from James and the Giant Peach. It is hard for me to work on it and take it seriously, too. We all look like tools when we are doing it. Honestly, it is funny. Eyes alive, nostrils flared, and on… It is interesting to watch everyone get prepped for the dialect too because, we all sit up straighter and it seems as though we attempt to be more British. By that, I mean that we all seem to develop a higher level of being focused on what the task at hand is. We also seem to sit up a whole lot straighter. Americans seem to have this high standard of seeing the British as being extremely proper compared to the typical American culture. The IPA language is very frustrating, too. I feel that I have been taught to just said words and not analyze them as being something that we need to focus on. Does that make sense? I could care less how it sounds to be correct or how the liquid u should be used in a different manor. I just get my words out and I am done with them.

February 8 - 24, 2005

- The Importance of Being Earnest seems to follow me where ever I go lately. Whether it is in scene design class or it is in advanced acting, I can never seem to get away from it. Practicing and dealing with the restoration has definitely been an interesting item for me to deal with. Not only has it been fun to play with hitting each other with a newspaper, it has been funny to see each other do the same. This class is filled with people who are obsessed with getting attention on campus and in class. That is what makes us an amazing group of people is because we all like making each other laugh and enjoy each other. The one exercise that I truly enjoyed was the ballet that leads us into working on the bows,
followed by the gossip. Not only was it like us that most of our behaviors are like the those found in the restoration period, but this exercised allowed us to expand on these behaviors. We are theatre people! We enjoy making fun of others, gossiping, strutting, and showing off to others that we think we are al better then them. It also was the type of thing that most of us enjoy. We like creating and living in thee ream worlds. I am not going to lie and state that I was not overly excited when there was a rumor about myself and Adam Riegle going around. It is interesting to see how they responded to me. I was looked down upon and it was for a very foolish reason. It made me wonder if this is how we treat other members in society once we hear a little piece of information about them. Currently, I am dealing with a situation among some friends. I am not positive what is true and what is false. It is as though I have nothing to go off of but their word. At that point I am even more confused, but it is funny to observe and watch others and their ears perk up to see what the new gossip is on the topics and what they are relating to. Another item that I have enjoyed watching and seeing develop is the scenes of others. I suck at memorizing… I truly do! It is weird to se where others have begun to take their scenes. I really enjoyed the character analysis and the drawing out of characters costumes and our self images. I decide to stick to the more natural aspect of my character, while Phil had the balls to go for a more aggressive approach of taking the transvestite approach. I never would have expected a dominatrix aspect connected to the restoration/realism period of theatre. Most of the time, I think of the Victorian era as being one where there is lace and ruffles. It, in my mind was a very popular way to show class in that period. It also demonstrates that women of the time had to keep a high class structure of being proper mannered and showing off their money and their family’s wealth.

Week of March 15, 2005

• Getting back into the swing of things and with Trojan Women on top of it, it has been exciting. I will admit that I did not completely memorize my lines over break. Many other things came up and school seemed to be the farthest from my mind. It interesting though…while working on my scene and analyzing all of the builds with in the scene, I noticed that Gwendolyn is a bitch. Plain and simple. She does not allow anyone else match e revel. She could care less; she has been raised to think about life completely differently. She is the only one that matters to anyone in her life besides her mother. She also takes extreme joy in putting others down. I believe her main goal is that she wants to put others down in the most educated way possible. It is as though putting people down is below her class system, but when she does it, she MUST do it in style and preferably above class. I found the scarf exercise to be really frustrating because it was not as though we could build a lot of builds with a two female scene. It was interesting to watch Emily & Phil, as well as Emily &Charlie’s scenes because it was as though Emily knew exactly what to do with that scarf. I was very impressed, but at the same time felt very pressured to complete the scene perfectly.

Week of March 22, 2005
• All we really did this week was talk about Trojan Women and work on our scenes in the small setting. I was quite excited to talk about Trojan Women, because there were many things from the directing stand point that I wanted to ask Doc. I understand that this is Advanced Acting but I wanted to know what where his biggest challenges in dealing with the issues of actors with big heads. It is an aggravating thing to me as a fellow director because I find many students to be more of a bother than anything else at the college level. While watching the show many nights, I found it quite incredible that they would sometimes change things that Doc had specifically told them what to do because they know that college theatre is just that: College theatre. It is a point for them to express themselves and try things to see if they get a bigger or different reaction. I also enjoyed doing the individual scene rehearsal with you because it gave me a chance to really evaluate what specific levels that I need to work on. It also gave Michelle and me a chance to work together with no one else really watching. At times, it is more beneficial for me, as an actor, to work with just my scene partner and not a whole group of spectators.

Week of March 29, 2005
• Performing always gives me a rush! Wow! No matter how many times I perform, I still get that level of nerves in my stomach. I hate it. It doesn’t go a way for a while. I was always told that it is better to have those feelings in my stomach and to experience nerves. My favorite theatre teacher of all time once told me the story of the fact that once those butterflies are gone, you are no longer really an actor. An actor has this special and amazing talent of taking those flip flops and butterflies and turning them into a high level of positive energy. It is that positive energy that propels them into achieving the highest level of success for them. I know that I botched some of my lines, but overall, I feel that I did a good job. I still know that the biggest thing that screwed me over was the whole dialect; I just couldn’t get that idea of speaking in a different tongue to really settle into my mind. However, I have developed a higher respect for Oscar Wilde. Before this scene work, I hated the whole thought behind the Importance of Being Ernest.