



The Show Must Go On!

How we worked together as Director and Dramaturg to put on a play during a pandemic

Brooke Echnat and
Catherine MacKay



What is a Dramaturg?

- In *Ghost light: An introductory handbook for Dramaturgy*, Michael Chemers says a dramaturg seeks to do three things: “analyze the aesthetic architecture of a piece of dramatic literature, research what information is needed to transform a script into a live piece of theater, and apply that knowledge into a way that makes sense to a living audience right here right now” (Chemers 4).



Our January Rehearsal Process

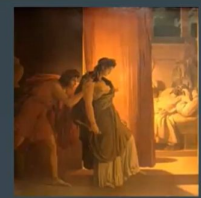
- Dramaturgy Presentations
- Snap-Talks with Professors
- Table Work
- Character Building

Bliss or Emily Post is Dead REHEARSAL CALENDAR January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Cast Read Through 7:30 - 10:30 pm	6 Dramaturgy Presentation 5:30-7:00pm	7 Dr. Ponnuswami Snap Talk 4:30 - 6:00 pm Dr. Delsandro Snap Talk 6:30 - 8:00 pm	8	9
10 Dramaturgy Presentation 1:00 - 2:30 pm	11 Dr. Larson Snap Talk 7:30 - 9:00 pm	12 Dr. Williams Snap Talk 5:30-7:00 pm Designer Presentation 7:30 - 9:00 pm	13	14 Table Work 6:00 - 9:00 pm	15	16 Table Work 12:00 - 3:00 pm
17	18 Table Work/ Character Building 12:30 - 2:30 pm	19	20 Character Building 12:30 - 2:30 pm	21	22 Character Building 12:30 - 2:30 pm	23
24	25 1-on-1 Session w/ Brooke and Catherine by appointment *Only Sign Up for 1 Session*	26 1-on-1 Session w/ Brooke and Catherine by appointment	27 1-on-1 Session w/ Brooke and Catherine by appointment	28	29	30

Dramaturgical Work

Portrayals of Clytemnestra

- *The Odyssey* by Homer - "Agamemnon was killed by his wife's lover"
- *The Oresteia* trilogy by Aeschylus
 - *Agamemnon* - changes the motive for the murder of Agamemnon
 - *Libation Bearers* - Orestes and Electra plan to kill Clytemnestra and Aegisthus
 - *Eumenides* - her ghost stirs up Furies to hound her son
- *Electra* by Sophocles - depicted as a truly evil woman
- *Electra* by Euripides - treated



Play (0)

25:22 / 1:10:40

Script vs. Etiquette: The Blue Book of Social Usage (1945)

- Clementine's "Writing a Letter to a Man who is not my husband" - Act I, Page 1
- Chapter 43: "Longer Letters"
 - The Letter No Woman Should Ever Write

THE LETTER NO WOMAN SHOULD EVER WRITE

The mails carry letters every day that are so many packages of TNT should their contents be exploded by falling into wrong hands. Letters that should never have been written are put in evidence in courtrooms every day. Many cannot, in any way, be excused, but often silly girls and foolish women write things that sound quite different from what they innocently, but stupidly, intended.

Of course the best advice to young girls who feel impelled to pour out their emotions in letters to men can be put in one word, *don't*. However, if you are a young girl—or even a not-so-young woman—and are determined to write a letter to a man (who is neither your husband nor your betrothed) that contains any possibility of emotion, then at least put it away for "an overnight" in order to re-read it and make sure that you have said nothing that may "sound different" from what you intended to say. Remember this above all:

Never write a letter to anyone—no matter who—that would embar-

ETIQUETTE

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...rass you were you to see it in a newspaper above your signature. Not that this means *you*, but thousands upon thousands of women, inspired by every emotion known, have poured words on paper, but few of the many made public have had beauty. There were, as many may remember, a certain few letters read in a Pacific Coast divorce court not long ago, which revealed a woman's character of unforgettable loveliness. But such characters—as well as letters—are rare.

A point to remember, then, is that written words, unless destroyed, are permanent, and that thoughts carelessly put on paper can last for hundreds of years.

PROPER LETTERS OF LOVE OR AFFECTION



33:09 / 1:14:31

CC

Dramaturgical Work continued.

Emily Post way to serve tea ↗

Catherine MacKay <cam072@buconnell.edu>

to Jeniah, Samantha, Suzanne, Jessica, Pierce, Azhant, Em, Tara, Kieran, Isabel, Brooke, Grace, James ▾

Hi Team!

I saw in Grace's rehearsal report that you had a question about the Emily Post way to serve tea.

Here's what I took away from *Etiquette*:

Before the guests arrive the hostess would set out the tea tray with everything on it except the kettle of boiling water. She would leave the kettle on the stove in the kitchen. As guests arrive she greets them at the door, tells them where to put their coats, and when she is ready for tea, she fills the tea tray kettle from the kitchen kettle and carries it over to the tea table.

The pouring of the tea is usually done by two close friends, but can also be done just by the hostess. These close friends are always invited beforehand and are chosen because the hostess knows she can count on them to be gracious to everyone. After an hour another two friends would relieve the first two of their duties. A might may ask, "May I have a cup of tea?" and the pourer would respond in a super smiley way, "Certainly! How do you like it? Strong or weak?" If the guest says weak then boiling water is added and according to their wishes, sugar, milk/cream, or lemon. A guest might also prefer having coffee or chocolate to tea.

Here are some more resources that might be interesting to check out:

[Emily Post Institute Common Tea Questions](#)

[Let's Give a Tea Educational Video from 1940s](#) start at 11:12

[Tea Making Tips](#)

[Afternoon Tea from an Etiquette Expert](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is any other information that would be helpful!

Best,

Catherine MacKay



Thu, Feb 25, 10:18 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Collecting Videos from the 1950s/early 60s

Commercials/Ads

Folgers Coffee Long

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnjjkglO3Ck>

Folgers Coffee Short

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAlpr97s0nE>

Kool-Aid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKY2O4KFmMU>

Coca Cola

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4hIH-IX5r4>

Coca Cola

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zTDbpxT8ZI>

Pepsi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=113mRmchumY>

Jello

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCsTNuWtOPA>

*This one looks like it has the hand held mixer Maddy refers to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1pX6ZsDq4M>

Hoover

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQQ-V-9RAD8>

February/March Rehearsals & Filming

- Weeks 1-3: Blocking & Scene Work
 - Staging Each Scene: Following Covid Protocols
 - Techniques: Chekhov, Meisner, Boal, Stanislavski
- Weeks 4-6: Start of Filming
 - 8-Day Filming Schedule
- Weeks 7-8: Editing Process
- Mix of Zoom/In-Person Rehearsals
- Creating a Theatre/Film Hybrid
 - Collaboration with the Film & Media Studies Department



Script Revisions & Work w/ Cultural Consultants

- Playwright:
 - Jami Brandli
- Cultural Consultants:
 - Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters (Bucknell Alum!)
 - Megan Schumacher
- Worked to Obtain Script Revisions
 - In an effort to better center our Characters of Color.



Bliss Highlights Reel



Works Cited

- Chemers, Michael Mark. *Ghost Light : An Introductory Handbook for Dramaturgy*, Southern Illinois University Press, 2010. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bucknell/detail.action?docID=1354461>.