

Department of Theatre and Dance
Production Meeting Notes

Production: MACHINAL
Stage Manager: Ellie Hemming
Date: November 5, 2025



Director: (Mary)

- Actors will be doing all onstage scene shifts.
- Mary would like to lean into shadows and shapes using the actors.
- She is beginning to identify moments when YOUNG WOMAN's heart comes through.
- Mary is considering 15 people in the cast but will finalize her decision next week.
- Mary would like to incorporate the episode titles into the show. Here are the options discussed:
 - Supertitle projections, like *Cabaret*.
 - Brechtian announcements
 - Include in program

Scenery

Designers: (Mandy & Ilex)

- Taking inspiration from expressionist art, focusing on lines/angles, & playing with shadows & colors.
- The back wall could be translucent to play with lights.
 - Cast could walk behind the wall to create different shapes
 - Cast or crew could hold lighting instruments to help create these shapes.
- Playing with where the back wall will be located and whether it's on an angle. (Possibly located far downstage).
- Thinking about modular set pieces that can come together to make different looks.
 - These pieces could also double as different furniture items.
- Costumes & sound will help determine scenic designs.

Technical Directors: (Nate & Avery)

- Nothing new at this time.

Costumes (Michelle)

- Costumes will be set in 1920s period.
- Sticking to warm, not grey scale, with pops of color.
- YOUNG WOMAN will be more colorful than the other characters.
 - Signifying in her mind this is a dream or memory.
- In the final scene, YOUNG WOMAN will be in all white, symbolizing an angel.
- The men will be wearing typical 1920s suits w/high waisted trousers.
- Even though the play mostly takes place indoors, the men will most likely wear hats.
- The men will all have a similar look that gives "They know they own the world."

Lights (Mandy & Leah)

- There will be lights!
- There will be haze!
- During scene shifts, lights will react to sound.

Sound (David & Angelina)

- In the world of the play, Dave would like to play with diegetic & non-diegetic sounds.
- There are two worlds within the play. Mary & Dave would both like to play with when these worlds are separate & when they collide.

- Internal: Themes of home & love, the sound is distant & teasing hopefulness.
- External: Themes regarding work & the sound are mechanical, very repetitive & almost orchestral.
- Scene shifts will need music.
- Aaron Copland's 1925 Symphony for Organ and Orchestra can be found in the sound folder for music reference.
- Future discussion will take place regarding live sounds onstage.
- Will begin thinking about playing with reverse accumulation, stripping down the sound as the show progresses.

Props (Michael & Morgan)

- Future discussion will take place regarding furniture with Mandy.

Dramaturgy (Avery):

- Nothing new at this time.

Stage Management (Ellie):

- Nothing new at this time.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday November 21 at 12:05 pm **BUT** is subject to change.