

Department of Theatre and Dance
Production Meeting Notes

Production: MACHINAL
Stage Manager: Ellie Hemming
Date: October 24, 2025



Director: (Mary)

- Correct pronunciation for *Machinal* is **MAH-shin-ALL**.
- Based partly on Ruth Snyder the “American Murderer.”
- Focus on Expressionism.
- Line to build on, “When I did what I did I was free.”
 - So much of this show is based on feelings.
- Words used to describe *Machinal*:
 - Shame, intense, rhythmic, racing, claustrophobic, isolating, lonely, dark, etc.
- Not every scene has to be done the same.
- Distorted dramatic action that is enhanced through Helen, YOUNG WOMAN’s eyes.
 - YOUNG WOMAN resembles everywoman.
- Acting will focus on pacing and repetition.
- The intensity needed can be achieved with sound and lights.
- YOUNG WOMAN does not leave the stage throughout the entirety of the performance.
- All onstage scene shifts will be carried out by the actors not crew.
 - The transitions will help tell the story.
- There will be a transition at the top of the show to transform the stage into the office.
- Stay true to 1920s setting.
- No intermission needed.
- No projections needed.
- Casting:
 - No more than 15 actors in this production.
 - More specifics to come later.
- Will add concept presentation and other materials to the director folder.

Scenery

Designers: (Mandy & Ilex)

- The script included a “back wall with a door and window” that is present at different points throughout this play.
- Will play with platforms ‘jutting out into the space.’
- Mary would like the space upstage of the window to be used for live motion and for playing with shadows.

Technical Directors: (Nate & Avery)

- Mary would like moving walls, preferably organic movements that juxtapose clutter and abyss.
- Mary wondered if the desks for the office scene could be moveable and transformed into other furniture pieces.
- Mary wondered about having the bar rise from the stage using a trap.

Costumes (Michelle)

- Mary would like to play with colors and use it with intention.
 - Muted colors, blues, greys, etc.
 - More carefree characters, like Telephone Girl, in vibrant colors.

Lights (Mandy & Leah)

- Mary would like the scene transitions to be dimly lit but still seen from the audience.
- Mary would like to play with when the lighting becomes jarring for the audience.

Sound (David & Angelina)

- Mary would like to explore the sounds mentioned in the script but add more distortions to the loud sounds.
 - Begin playing with ways to make the audience feel uneasy but not too uncomfortable.
- Will begin playing with sound “accumulation.”
- Mary would like sound to come from the props onstage
- Will play with distorting offstage voices.
- Mary would like Dave to be present earlier in the rehearsal process

Props (Michael & Morgan)

- Mary will look into how detailed she would like the props to be.
- Future discussion will take place regarding the furniture.

Dramaturgy (Avery):

- Designers would like a shared document in the Dramaturg folder to begin asking dramaturgical questions.

Stage Management (Ellie):

- Nothing new at this time.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday November 7 at 12:05 pm **BUT** is subject to change.