

**Department of Theatre and Dance**  
**Production Meeting Notes**



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

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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

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**Props (Michael & Morgan)**

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

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**Dramaturgy (Avery):**

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

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**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.