

Department of Theatre and Dance
Production Meeting Notes



Production: MACHINAL
Stage Manager: Ellie Hemming
Date: December 16, 2025

Director: (Mary)

- Would like the electric chair to be present throughout the entire show.
 - Ep 1: the chair could be at her desk
 - Ep 2: the chair at her table w/Mother
 - The chair will be identifiable and different from other chairs used
 - Possibly morph from beginning to end
- The electric chair will be the final thing the audience sees.
- Discussing with Mandy about different levels and platforms.
- Does not want projections, but wants to play with shadows
- We are sticking to the script and setting this play in New York state, but no dialects are needed.

Scenery

Designers: (Mandy & Ilex)

- Question was brought up regarding how much of the walls will be translucent, as well as scrim and cyc usage.

Technical Directors: (Nate & Avery)

- Nothing new at this time.

Costumes (Michelle)

- Color pallet keeping with sepia color scheme for the majority of the play.
- Bright colors are for the moments when Young Woman comes alive and is more aware of her life (Ep 5 & Ep 6).
- Playing around with adding facial hair for Matthew.
 - Future question for Matthew around if he's capable of growing facial hair.
- Wondering about Husband's state of undress in Ep 3
 - Ex. removal of coat or vest
- Young Woman's honeymoon dress for Ep 3 is planning to be mauve/muted color with a conservative slip.
 - Slip is more conservative to make room for the slip she will already be wearing in anticipation for Ep 4.
- Ep 5 has Young Woman in a fashionable but conservative dress while Telephone Girl wears a sassier flapper dress.
- Has printed research images for hospital nurses/doctors, prison guard, hats, & service staff
- Ensemble may have a base costume with specific costumes pieces to differentiate between characters.
- Have talked with Mary about underdressing during transitions.
 - Future discussion will take place after blocking.
 - Actors will be helping with these costume transitions, not crew.
 - Lighting can be dimmer in some transitions.
- Wondering about First Man's state of undress in Ep 6
 - Ex. Robe

Lights (Mandy & Leah)

- Nothing new at this time.

Sound (David & Angelina)

- Continuing exploring with this continuum between what's most real and most abstract.
- The play will most likely start and end with the same sound of an electric chair.
- Music will play throughout but will begin playing with fracturing the music during more expressionistic scenes.
 - The transition music could morph from real to fractured or vice versa.
 - Based on Copland or in that style.
- Will coordinate with props & scenic to help finalize sounds.
- Some of the sounds will be made onstage, particularly with props.

Props (Michael & Morgan)

- Went to props storage to try to look over what we have in stock and picked out a couple of realistic props.
- Scenery will influence props in regard to style and color.
- Will spend time over break figuring out how/what props will look like.
- Props list has been started
- Once rehearsals begin, it would be beneficial to know if there are certain props Young Woman interacts with that standout.
- Future discussions with Dave regarding 3D printing props will take place.

Dramaturgy (Avery & Abby):

- Met with Mary to figure out what to focus on researching.
- Has a document in their folder for dramaturgical questions.
- Will be doing lots of research over break!

Stage Management (Ellie):

- Look out for an email regarding new meeting time!

NEXT MEETING: We are hoping to **ADD** a meeting on Friday January 23rd time TBD. We will then switch to meeting Wednesdays at 12:05 weekly after that.