

ONLINE THEATRICALS

How is Hoover Drama putting on a production in the time of social distancing?

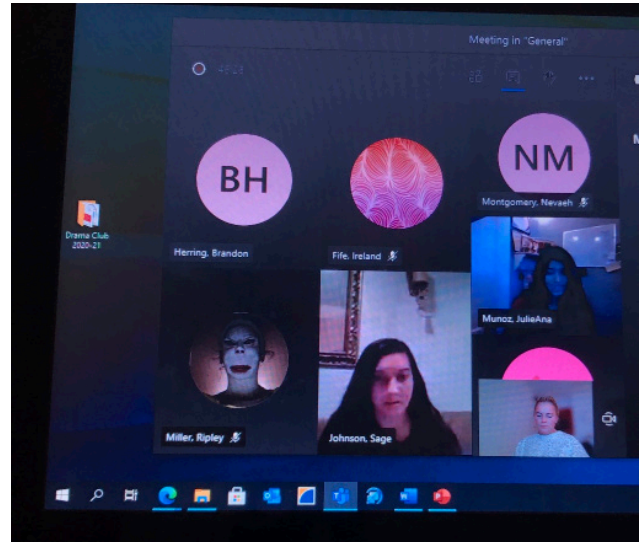
In unprecedented times such as these, the fate of school activities is far from certain. Drama is definitely no exception. How can we put on productions without an audience? How are we supposed to work together when we can't even be together? The drama department has found the answer.

Of course this year's production is going to be much different from plays and musicals in years past – but *how* exactly? Well, for starters, the play will be entirely virtual. The cast will perform and record on an application such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams then the production will be shown and watched similarly to a film. The play, titled 'Don't Be a Fly,' was written by senior Ripley Miller, the Thespian Board Vice President who has been involved in the drama department for seven years.

"I mean, it's virtual – it's going to be extremely different. Plus, it's more of a film than anything. It will be all prerecorded and there will even be camera work. I worked hard, film and script writing is something I love. So seeing something I spent a lot of time on creating come to life will be absolutely life changing and will truly let me know if this is the road I want to take the rest of my life," Miller said.

This play is something completely different from what audiences have seen before, and not just because of the presence of cameras and computers. This play is intense, dark, and powerful – not something an audience would expect from a high school production. Without spoiling too much, this is what members of the department have thought about this play.

"I am very excited about the play because this is the first time a student has written our fall performance, and I love the subject matter of the play. It's a little off the beaten path, but I think our audience will enjoy it,



A scene from a recent rehearsal of "Don't Be a Fly." Photo courtesy of Morgan King.

nonetheless," junior Mason Beckler, the Thespian Board secretary and technical crew head, said.

While the play is something new and exciting, it may not be for everyone.

"Something I have to add is more of a warning. If anyone is sensitive around the topic of suicide and death, then 'Don't Be a Fly' is not something for you to watch," Miller said.

These are confusing and frustrating circumstances for those involved in school activities, but the members of the cast and crew, as well as the department in general, remain excited and optimistic.

"I am most excited to have the opportunity to finally work on a production at Hoover. This year is very different from how I imagined it a year ago, so it will be nice to get some sort of "normalcy" by working to create a wonderful production," Director Morgan King said.

While it will be much different from the normal stage production, 'Don't Be a Fly' has great minds working behind it. The play is January 28th, 29th and 30th at 7 PM – keep an eye out for a link to get tickets!



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DON'T BE A FLY

SHOWTIMES & DATES:

JANUARY 28TH AT 7 PM

JANUARY 29TH AT 7 PM

JANUARY 30TH AT 7 PM

