

The Story behind *The Unwritten Show*:



I have never learned so much. That is what I kept saying to myself from March 29th through May 28th and continue to say about this experience looking back on it. When I came up with the idea of putting on an original production in 8 weeks, I knew it was ‘ambitious’. That was a term that people used when I told them and one that floated around in my head when the project crossed my mind. I told Haley Considine and Gavin Budny about the idea, and they were game. No questions about it. “Let’s do it,” they said. I wrote an email to Principal Ian Strever that night and got on a group FaceTime call with my new co-directors. We weren’t directing anything but our hearts at that point. We made some documents all headed with a temporary name, The Unwritten Show - little did we know we’d keep it for what it stood for. Auditions were promising to say the least, and we were delighted to see that we were right about a desire for theater within the Housatonic student body.

Then were the rehearsals. I had to schedule everyone. Fortunately, we made conflict sheets to help ease this process. Unfortunately, they were very full. One cast member could only come on Thursdays, another could never. This is an example of an obstacle - one of many that would come up. One cast member had to leave us for surgery, one never showed up save maybe four times. This was the nature of the endeavor. The group chat with my co-directors was lighting up 24/7, and I’d wake up in the middle of the night to write an errand down - God forbid I forget it. We even learned of obstacles on May 23rd, four days before our show. One cast member had COVID and could no longer perform. In our group chat, my co-director said, “This is just really bad.” She didn’t use the word “bad”. “Yes, it is,” I said. “But we will overcome it.” It was about 20 minutes after this news that I got a voice message. It was the company we rented body microphones from. “We think you’re two packs short,” they said. “We’re gonna overnight them to you.” I got them two days later. That made it Thursday, the day before the show.

So, yes, I knew it was 'ambitious'. But I had no idea what that meant at the beginning of it all. Don't be mistaken, however, for I loved every second of it. All the work was a necessary component of the art we were creating, and I loved it. I knew that the stress I experienced was simply an indicator of how productive I was being, and I knew that we all felt it. Every obstacle we were approached with was an opportunity to understand it, learn how to overcome it, and leave it in the past as we charged towards our goal.

And that we did. We opened our doors at 6:30 PM on May 27th, 2022. People started filing in. It was a lot, and I got nervous once again - not for how we'd do, but how they'd like it, which is a silly notion, really. Mr. Strever gave a wonderful introduction, and I followed up with a speech of my own. I walked down the stairs and exited into the alcove. I ran (literally sprinted) into our changing room to throw on a tracksuit for my first character's appearance, and when I came out into the hallway backstage, I heard laughter, then applause, and I knew we'd finally won.

