



Emerson Stage | Courtney O'Connor

Production Meeting: 1

Date: April 1, 2016

Start: 11:04am

End: 11:45am

In Attendance: Dan Burmester, Elizabeth Cahill, Brian Choinski, Keith Cornelius, Rachael Dahl, Jaclyn Dentino, Richelle Deveraux-Murray, Alexis Ellis-Alvarez, Annie DuBolay, Arshan Gailus, Jonah Godfrey, Janie Howland, Tim Jozwick, Jessica Kemp, Alta Lewis Millard, Deb Krasa, Courtney O'Connor, Abby Shanker, Maddie St. Amour

Next Production Meeting: 11am-11:30am on April 8, 2016 in the Greene Theater

GENERAL

- 1) Welcome to the *Caucasian Chalk Circle* team!
- 2) The Concept:
 - a) Take a perfect French macaroon and smash it down.
 - b) **This play is about a world in crisis. What will you do when placed in the mouth of the shark? We tell stories to remind each other and the next generation that it will be okay.**
 - c) We are in a refugee camp world (Europe somewhere, but ambiguous) as well as a world of transition and flux. Around the world we see the horrors of what refugees go through as well as seeing refugees hug and smile. It speaks to how indomitable the human spirit can be.
 - d) There is no realism whatsoever.
- 3) One of Courtney's focuses, in traditional Brecht style, is to keep the audience uncomfortable to remind the audience that they are seeing theater. We explored and will continue to explore the idea of flipping the stage – staging the performance in the house while the audience sits on the stage. If, after discussion, we are able to go through with this idea, **please kindly keep this in the cone of silence.** Courtney would like audience members to be surprised and uncomfortable.
- 4) Courtney would like to explore this “turning the workplace into a home” idea. The theater is our workplace, and how do we turn it into a home?
- 5) Please take a moment to read the poem, “Home,” by Warsaw Shire. The text that speaks to Courtney is, “no one leaves home unless/ home is the mouth of a shark..”
- 6) If you wish to look at some images and did not get a handout this afternoon, please ask Courtney for links.
- 7) Marta Sarrión Arrue will be the Props Master.
- 8) We are using the Frank McGuinness translation.
- 9) **The first rehearsal will be August 29, 2016.**
- 10) Courtney is still thinking about whether or not she will use the Prologue. If she chooses not to, she will still find a way to get the “Will this take long?” joke into the show. It's her favorite joke.
- 11) Courtney will cast major roles with specific actors during casting, with Azdak most likely being female.
- 12) No actors/actresses will be leaving the stage.
- 13) Design Meeting (noun): a meeting in which everyone in the production will listen to the director and designers discuss - you guessed it - the design in order to keep everyone in the loop.
- 14) Production Management will be reaching out to designers and Courtney to get consistent conflict schedules.
- 15) Courtney has a pool. Just so everyone knows.



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SCENIC

- 1) See General #3 (playing with the space)
- 2) Talk to Dan Burmester about working with the current preliminary and final design due dates (currently May 13, 2016). It is important to have finals in before everyone leaves for Summer Break.
- 3) Courtney was thinking about placing platforms over seats.

LIGHTING

- 1) See General #3 (playing with the space)
- 2) Prelims are due August 12, 2016. Finals are due September 8, 2016.
- 3) Because final designs are due so close to load in, please keep the ME team and shop in the loop as early as the prelim design stage.

COSTUMES

- 1) There will be no full on costume changes. Rather than quick changes backstage, actors will be grabbing items of clothing to put on to change character.
- 2) Talk to Dan Burmester about working with the current preliminary and final design due dates (currently May 13, 2016). It is important to have finals in before everyone leaves for Summer Break.
- 3) Courtney will cast major roles with specific actors during casting.
- 4) Azdak will probably be female when cast. That is the only preconceived notions Courtney has about the cast.

SOUND

- 1) The feel of the song "Sound of Silence" by Disturbed is really driving Courtney.
- 2) Elizabeth is comfortable composing the singer's melody. She and Courtney will be in discussion.
- 3) Elizabeth expressed interest in helping the audience feeling uncomfortable by playing barely audible sound in the house as the audience walks in.

PROPS

- 1) Please see General #7.

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

- 1) Elizabeth Cahill will not be able to attend the next two design meetings.
- 2) If we do any sort of flipping, will Elizabeth Cahill be able to touch the rep speakers?

GENERAL/COMPANY MANAGEMENT

- 1) 12-14 actors will be cast and play multiple roles. There are roughly 38 characters in total.
- 2) Please see General #9.
- 3) Please see General #11.
- 4) Please see Costumes #4

OFFICE OF THE ARTS

- 1) Please see General #3. Dan will be in contact with you to have a larger discussion about the inquiry in further detail.

Thanks much!
Jess Kemp, PS