Xodia C.

“Directing A Christmas Carol for a Contemporary Audience: Walking the Lines of Tradition and Innovation”

Major: Theatre Arts

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Nichole Hamilton

Honors Thesis

How does one direct one of the most ubiquitous plays in America while balancing tradition and innovation? As shown by NMSU’s recent A Christmas Carol, this disconnect may be bridged through the creation of common vocabulary amongst ensemble members through use of Chekhov movement exercises and Boalian theatre games. Historical context was also used as a foundational reference point throughout rehearsals. Brechtian design elements were implemented to explore darker themes in the story, reinforcing parallels to contemporary socio-political issues. Collectively, use of these techniques created a show that newly engaged audiences, while also satisfying traditional expectations of the show.