Artifact Reflection

There were two interconnected assignments from this class were my favorites. One was reviewing the play "Come From Away" and the second was proposing a new musical segment for one of the characters and I chose Bob because he was a New Yorker. These tasks not only allowed me to engage creatively with a renowned production but also fostered deep reflection, an appreciation for multiple perspectives, and the practical application of my knowledge in theater studies.

1.

The reason these assignments resonate so deeply with me is their unique blend of analytical and creative demands. "Come From Away" is a play that depicts the real-life event of a small Canadian town welcoming stranded passengers during the 9/11 crisis. The assignment to review this play required me to dive into its historical context, the narrative, and the emotional journey it presents. The subsequent task of imagining a new musical segment for the play offered a rare opportunity to creatively extend its narrative. I chose to focus on the character Bob, who, despite his significant character development, lacked a solo performance in the original play. This choice allowed me to explore an underrepresented perspective within the play's narrative.

2.

These assignments required reflection in the form of introspective thinking, especially in understanding and conveying the emotional impact of "Come From Away." The task of reviewing the play involved a deep dive into my personal reactions to its themes and storytelling techniques. In creating a new musical segment, I had to reflect on Bob's journey and how best to express his transformation through song. Analyzing the play from the viewpoints of stranded passengers, local residents, and the production team provided a well-rounded understanding of multiple perspectives in the story. In proposing a new segment, I considered how Bob's perspective would add depth to the play's exploration of community and belonging.

Both assignments required applying diverse knowledge areas in history, theater, music, and psychology. Understanding historical events, theatrical techniques, and human behavior were crucial in appreciating and critiquing the play. Designing an idea for a new musical piece involved skills in storyboarding, character development, and understanding narrative structures in theater.

Another important thing I learned from this semester is the importance of time management and active participation in class discussions. I realized that timely responses in discussion boards are critical for being involved in the conversation and for not forgetting to contribute until past the deadline. Moving forward, my goal is to respond promptly to initial discussions, ensuring I meet deadlines while leaving room for further contributions if needed.

In conclusion, the assignments on "Come From Away" have been a highlight of my participation in this class. They fostered a deep sense of reflection, an appreciation for multiple perspectives, and a practical application of my knowledge and skills in theater studies. My favorite part was being invited to contribute to the play by writing a side story for one of the characters. It made me realize that these five days in Bob’s life could change his entire understanding of what home means.