Malena Logan

Crespo

Introduction to Directing

*What the Constitution Means to Me* Reflection

I think that What the Constitution Means to Me is about how the laws and concepts within the Constitution have actual effects on real people. It was so clever that Heidi had to share how an Amendment connects to her life. This allowed Schreck to form a connection with her audience.

Some of the most predominant elements of the play were the design choices. It was striking watching Schreck talk about how female violence is protected by the government while having her surrounded by portraits of men. What really stood out was the way that the lights shifted from warm to cool once her positive perspective on the Constitution shifted.

What stuck out the most to me was Heidi Schreck’s choice to exist as her fifteen-year-old self for half of the play and as her present-day self for the second half. The choice of having herself go back to her present-day self when she talks about her family’s history of domestic violence was very strong. Then tying her own personal relationship to domestic violence to the Castle Rock v. Gonzalez case. This choice allowed Schreck to make the personal connection that is required in this competition. By doing this it showed a vulnerability and maturity withing Schreck that she was not capable of when she was fifteen.

Additionally, it was so impactful having a young and current participant in these contests debate her on whether to keep or abolish the Constitution. This choice brings the conversation to a new generation and puts the onus onto the audience. The show already has a natural language of breaking the fourth wall and doing this made the show feel very complete.