

## My Directing Experience by Patrick Hammes

I decided to direct Cinderella because I have an interest in international folklore and grew up with the Disney version of the story. I also wanted to expand my theatre experience. I have gained experience in lighting, sound, technical direction and stage managing. When the opportunity arose, I thought this would be an interesting step forward. I've been helping to realize the artistic vision of other directors for so long, I wanted to experience being the one whose vision drives the show. I feel honored that I was selected by Ms. Davies to take on this hefty responsibility, a job that requires a lot of hard work, creativity, thought, and the ability to deal with people.

My vision for the project came about when I was reading the script and noticed the common motif of water - a major presence in each version of the Cinderella story being told in the script. I thought this was interesting given these versions of the story all come from different parts of the world. I see water as a symbol of global unity, given that our planet is 70% water and it flows across all continents. The water you drink now could someday end up in the tap of someone in India, and I feel this symbol of connection works perfectly for a multicultural play like this. I am also looking into actually using this play as a means to raise awareness for parts of the world where water is scarce and to even use it to raise funds to donate to charities that build wells in these areas.

I am looking forward to seeing this theme come to life, to working with the group of young actors and technicians that form our cast who will hopefully be leaders of the theatre department when my class has moved on, and to gain experience in the world of directing. I foresee challenges arising such as: managing a large pool of young actors and keeping everyone in check; realizing this vision in limited time; making sure that our representations of other cultures are as respectful as possible; and finally, learning to take a step back and let other people handle certain aspects. I have grown so used to handling the details of realizing the creative vision of others that it is an adjustment for me to let others handle the details of realizing my creative vision. I believe I can overcome all of these challenges and I believe that this show will turn out well. Having only been involved with theater for a few years, I feel proud that I have come this far. I hope that I can live up to the expectations of a director, and I look forward to making this project bloom.