

ROSEBUD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Course: THR 440 Acting Coaching III

Term: Winter 2026

Instructor: Leah T. Hearne

Student: Hayley Rosenau

COMMENTS:

It's been pure joy to work with Elle and Hayley this term; they had an excellent rapport and a high degree of trust that fed their work in a positive way from day one. We started with a scene from *Bordertown Café* (Hayley as Maxine & Elle as Marlene) which we worked through the mid-terms, then finished the term with a scene near the end of the play *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, with Elle playing Judas and Hayley playing Jesus.

Hayley's journal was outstanding, even journalling the day she was off sick – that's a first. As a fourth-year student she has learned well the benefits of journalling for class, how self-evaluation and self-awareness feeds her growth. Her journals were deep and didn't hold anything back. So grateful for her commitment in this regard.

Hayley frequently came to sessions feeling tired, as she was in the final term of her final year I get it. She would push through her tiredness for the work. She cited that text memorization was still a struggle for her and her challenges with understanding the role of Maxine in *Bordertown Café* seemed to add to her challenges in memorizing that scene. Hayley had difficulty finding empathy for Maxine - a character who avoids talking about anything consequential. At mid terms she asked me if she could work with the script handy. I allowed for that but after witnessing another group she decided to give a try without the script. Hayley was struggling to connect to Maxine's want which made her performance less connected to the character than what I know her to be capable of. She had a few line issues but I believe she knew them better than she thought she did.

Since rehearsals for the main stage and studio stage shows were happening simultaneously from mid March through early April we had a few weeks of two sessions a week to catch up at/near the end of those rehearsals before the end of term. At this point we had moved to work on the scene from *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Hayley was mostly off book at the time scheduled but had a couple of trouble spots that she didn't seem to be able to work out until late in the process. Hayley struggled playing the role of Jesus; she didn't want to come off as stained glass, but as a regular person. I told her to go ahead and lean into the tough love, that Jesus doesn't have to be soft, but that there should be nuance in the tactics. In our sessions she often chose one extreme or the other playing tactics. I reminded her that tough love or soft love, that Jesus in this scene is all about love; from his line early in the scene "but if the brother of my heart gives me only a passing hard look... I will sleep that night, nor sleep – at all – 'til he let me love him again." to the end of the scene where his last words to Judas are, "Please

love me, Judas.” Jesus’ want is to make Judas love him again. How Hayley explores the tactics of that want is her work of the actor. At one of the make-up sessions on the Monday before Performance Night Hayley disclosed that she hadn’t felt so unprepared before a final before. At the session on the Tuesday she was still struggling a bit but seemed to have a breakthrough, and was beginning to find her feet in the scene

Hayley seemed to let that need sink into her at performance night; she had a strong connection to her scene partner; she was listening and clocking Judas’ pain. Hayley needs to let us see how the pain of the loss of the friendship lands on her, to not be afraid of showing it all in her body. It was great to see the air leave her body on the “Judas – don’t you know what would happen if you got down on your knees?” moment. Her last couple lines in the scene: “Please stay.” & “Please love me, Judas.” held all of Jesus’s love for his friend. Beautifully done, Hayley.

Hayley, it’s been great working with you again. It’s so great so see the artist you’ve become. Congratulations on all you’ve accomplished this term and throughout your career as a student at RSA! Your hard work has paid off in enormous ways.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Assignments and/or Journal	13.5/15%
Class Work, Attitude, & Participation	37.5/40%
Midterm Presentation	11/15%
Final Presentation	<u>28/30%</u>
Sub Total	90/100%
Excused absence on Feb 10	- 1%
Total	89/100%
Letter Grade:	B+