

August 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a peer review for Colton Weiss on his presentation “Dialect Coaching for Productions: A Comparison Between Work on Plays and Musicals” that was presented at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education’s 2020 virtual conference.

Weiss put together a dynamic and interesting presentation that made great use of the digital medium of the conference session. He presented quantitative data about the work that voice and speech coaches are asked to do in production through the use of engaging infographics and clear, well put together slides. Weiss was clearly aware of the fact that he would be interacting with attendees through a screen and designed his presentation to work well for this format.

The information that Weiss presented offered new insight into the job of a voice and speech coach. As a director, I appreciated his deep dive into what coaches are asked to do and how his data illuminated the discrepancies in how much time and support coaches are given during productions, especially during musicals. This made me look at how I utilize a voice and speech coach in my own production practice and will lead to a reevaluation of how I schedule my rehearsals to better accommodate the work that they do. Weiss brought up the question, “is it clear what voice and speech coaches do,” which was an essential and illuminating question for directors, as the answer from many of us is no. Weiss’s presentation started a conversation for attendees that I believe will continue after the conference.

Weiss executed a dynamic and well-researched presentation that raised important questions about the collaboration between directors and voice and speech coaches. Weiss’s use of polished presentation materials and an engaging presentation style led to an excellent and successful session.

Sincerely,

Amy Osatinski

Amy S. Osatinski, PhD.
Assistant Professor of Theatre in Directing
The University of Northern Iowa