Reflection Essay

 In our final performance, we combined the kabuki culture with our performance. For kabuki, its dances and props are two most important characteristics, and I got inspiration from them. Also, a kabuki performance usually has a story, so we decided to arranged a short play. The short play was 4 minutes long. We noticed that the performance needed to have some relationship with nature. After reading the article on canvas, it inspired me to have a performance about climate change. Then, we stated to think about how to relate the kabuki with our short play. Because props is an significant characteristic of Kabuki, we decided to use Japanese fans. We also found that Color is an special element of kabuki since Kabuki’s costumes have bright color. Thus, we wanted to use some colorful fans, and we wanted to arrange some scenario that could make audiences to notice the element of fans. Next, we thought that we could also use fans when performing the kabuki dance. This is because our teacher told us that we shouldn’t create a new kabuki, and traditional kabuki dance truly needs to use fans. When thinking about the climate change, both of us agreed to focus on global warming. The most significant characteristic is that ice will melt, so we chose to have a scenario in the arctic. We wanted to talk about a story that happened in the future sarcastically and exaggeratedly, so the first part of our play is about a story that happened in the arid arctic. We also sarcastically perform a Japanese madman who wanted to go fishing, but there is actually no lake and ocean in the arctic because of global warming. Then, we wanted to show the bad result of global warming, so the Japanese madman dead at the end. When living in other country that is far away from home country, people will miss home. Thus, we performed that before the Japanese madman dead, he saw the Japanese fans of a tourist who was a kabuki performer and wanted to see the traditional kabuki dance for the last time.

 For the second part of our play, in order to more sarcastically and exaggeratedly the serious effect of global warming, we thought it was a good idea to sell the last piece of ice at a very high price in an auction. Here, we have a striking contrast because the price of normal ice is very cheap, however, the last piece of ice in the arctic is so expensive that is more expensive than other collections. So, according to the play, we adapted four elements of kabuki tradition: Japanese fans, color, kabuki dance and story in our performance.

During the process of arranging the play, we actually faced some challenges. At the beginning, we have no idea how to relate the nature with kabuki. After talking to our teacher, we got some ideas. Besides, we had created several versions of play. For example, in one of the other version, we didn’t have the role of Japanese madman and substitute it with the scenario that a Japanese used fans to make a polar bear feel colder. However, after listening to our friends suggestions, we chose the final version which is the easiest one for audiences to understand.

 In my opinion, when creating work in an intercultural context, we should respect other culture and do not change other culture. Before creating work, the first step we need to do is to learn more about different culture since if we do not really know about a culture, we won’t be able to create a good work.