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Join the School of the Arts Department of Cinematic Arts and Theatre as the Directing II class travel through time in our adaptation of:



April 28th, 2024

5:00 pm

University of North Alabama's Memorial Amphitheater
Free Admission!

School of the Arts  Department of Cinematic Arts and Theatre

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

*An Original Adaptation of the Jane Austen Novel
by the Directing II Class*

APRIL 28TH AT 7:00 P.M.

**UNA's Memorial Amphitheater
Free Admission**

**Directed by
Lily Higginbotham,
Star Smith,
& Laura Leigh Johnson**



**You may wish to bring
your own blanket or
lawn chair. Benches are
first come first serve.**

Hi all!

Being my first time directing it's been a challenging, yet rewarding and knowledgeable journey putting this together. I could not do it without our amazing cast, crew, and of course Laura Leigh, Star, and Abigail! Without the teamwork, collaboration, and encouragement brought by everyone there would be no show.

For Laura Leigh, Star, and Abigail: thank you, truly. Without the three of them I wouldn't have thought I could do this. Without their encouragement, enthusiasm, courage, and ultimately their strength, the thought of directing a whole act seemed impossible till I listened and took what they said and believed in it. Now look at what we've accomplished! This class is one I will forever remember.

I hope you find the laughter as well as the love and excitement between these characters. Although it's a different version of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, many of the themes in the original are still prevalent today and are showcased here. My desire is for you to learn and take something away from this play that you didn't know before.

It's been an absolute pleasure! Thank you for coming and welcome to our wonderful adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*!

Peace out, Lily Higginbotham



3-Min Pitch

Here is why we should do...



Pride and Prejudice

A play based on Jane Austen's novel by
Jane Austen and Steele MacKaye



The background of the slide is a light pink color. In the four corners, there are decorative illustrations of flowers and leaves. The top-left and bottom-right corners feature clusters of leaves in a light orange-brown color. The bottom-left and top-right corners feature a large, stylized flower with white petals and a dark red center, with a single dark red leaf positioned next to it.

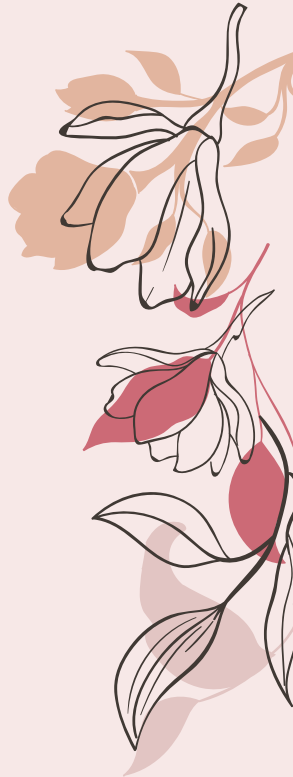
Synopsis

Pride and Prejudice follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome the titular sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry.



So why this play?

- There are plenty of different themes throughout this play that we each can pick and play around with such as : love, reputation, family, gender, misjudgments, and more.
- It's a well known play/novel so audience members will be familiar with the novel and hopefully be intrigued by what we have to bring to the table.
- There's a variety of scenes that take place inside or outside so if we were to want to take this outside into the world we could. In fact, the more impactful moments happen when the characters leave home.
- It's not only a challenge for us as directors, but also a challenge for the actors because of the emotions and the complexity of the characters and story









Where to Find

Public Domain:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/37431>

"Have a little compassion on my nerves.
You tear them to pieces."

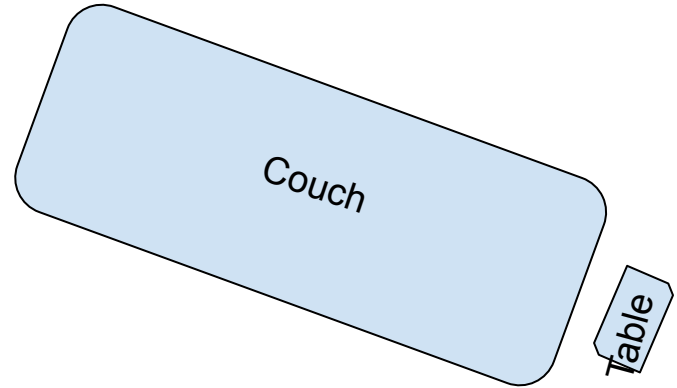
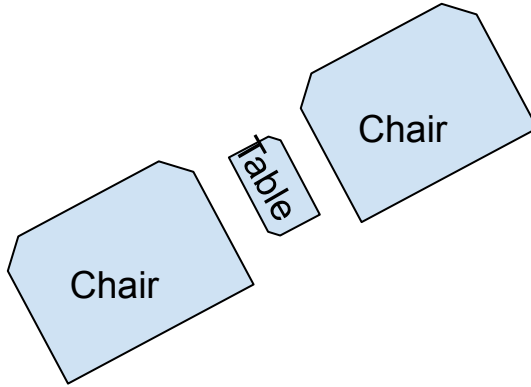
— Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Thanks!



Pride and Prejudice Act 1 Character Analysis

1. Mr. Bennet : A reserved, quiet, older man in late 40s who loves his wife and children. The status quo of everyone doesn't quite matter to him as much as his wife, but he goes along with it to keep her happy. As long as his girls, specifically Elizabeth, are happy and safe then all is okay.
2. Mrs. Bennet : A very out there, loud older woman a little younger, but still around the same age as Mr. Bennet. She is obsessed with the status of her family, marrying her girls off to potential suitors, and having her family elevated in society. Her character adds a little humor with how her children and her husband react to her.
3. Jane Bennet : A shy, anxious young lady in her early to middle twenties. She finds Mr. Bingley attractive, but is too shy to show her true intentions. She prefers to have less of a spotlight on her, but being the eldest with a mother who wants to show her off doesn't let that happen.
4. Elizabeth Bennet : A somewhat arrogant, opinionated young woman in her early to middle twenties. She's quick to give a sarcastic comment or to tell someone what she's thinking. She's her father's favorite and takes after him with her love of reading.
5. Mr. Wickham : A very deceiving, manipulative soldier in the army in his mid twenties. His true intentions aren't revealed till later in the story, but his role in this act is to charm and disarm the Bennet family, specifically Elizabeth. Only Darcy knows what Wickham's possible true intentions are.
6. Mr. Collins : A very stuck up, played by society's rules, young man in his mid twenties. He's boring and holds high expectations of how things are to go. He's very formal with a mix of pride and lack of social awareness in himself.
7. Mr. Bingley : A good-natured, wealthy, gentleman in his mid twenties. He's a kind, a little nervous, but very approachable man. His character gives a very positive element, including his relationship with Jane, against the other more complex relationships in the story.
8. Mr. Darcy : A wealthy, high class, reserved, complex young man in his mid twenties. Perceived as arrogant because of his views towards the Bennet family, but as the story goes on his demeanor starts to slip, especially around Elizabeth. He appears standoffish, but as he warms up to Elizabeth, we really see that he's a gentleman that will do anything for those he loves.



Audience

Sound and Lighting Cue List
Designers: Troi Cheeks and Mallory Walker

Lighting Cues:

- When Act 1 begins lights up across the whole amphitheater
- When Elizabeth (Kurstyn) runs off the stage, lights fade out
- Would like for the columns to be uplit blue

Sound Cues

- Preshow is agreed upon by all of us
- Doorbell
- Piano instrumental song
- Car horn
- Transition music between Acts

Lily Higginbotham
Directing 2
25 February 2024

For the Auditions

1. Synopsis

- a. In the first act, we are introduced to the Bennet family, particularly Mrs. Bennet's obsession with finding suitable husbands for her daughters. The arrival of the eligible bachelor Mr. Bingley seems to spark a lot of interest specifically with Mrs. Bennet as she's eager to see him married to one of her eldest daughters, Jane. As the first act continues it sets the stage for the developing relationships including Elizabeth Bennet, the second oldest, and Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley's best friend. It dives into themes of societal expectations, class distinctions, and the impact of individual character on relationships. We see the unfolding of pride, prejudice, and love that will shape the rest of the story.

2. Content Disclosure

- a. This act contains depictions of modern social dynamics and discussions of wealth and status. Characters may engage in social commentary and satire related to contemporary culture in reference to popular brands and lifestyle trends we see today. Audience members can expect to see themes of family dynamics, relationships, romance, and societal expectations.

Audition questions :

- How can we get in contact with you? (What is your preferred method?)
- Do you have a preferred role you'd like to audition for?
- Are you okay with rehearsing and/or performing outside for a long period of time?
- Can you play the piano? (More so to know if I need to play a track of piano or if they can play)
- Are you willing to cut or color your hair?
- If neither are you willing to wear a wig?
- Are you willing to shave?
- Are you willing to cover your tattoos?
- Are you willing to remove any piercings?
- Please list any scheduling conflicts as well as your weekly schedule to the best of your ability.
- Is there anything about yourself you wish to share that will help the director(s) better support you in the casting process, and if cast or crew in the rehearsal and production process?

Scene/Script Analysis of Pride and Prejudice Act 1

1. Given Circumstances and how they influence the characters and events
 - a. Time and Place -
 - i. Winter to really early spring of 2024 at the Bennet family household, early mid-day, in the countryside of England. Our characters are found in the living room or den area.
 - b. Social Context -
 - i. The act revolves around a higher vs “lower” class. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley represent the higher, upper class with Mr. Darcy looks down on the Bennet family, because of how small their home is and how they carry themselves. The Bennet family is of the lower part of the high class because their wealth depends on their daughters marrying well since there is no male heir. Mr. Collins is also a part of this class being that he lives on Lady Catherine’s estate and is a clergyman. Mr. Wickham is a soldier who is more a part of the working class or middle class.
 - c. Economic Context -
 - i. They’re all wealthy, Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley more so, besides I would say Mr. Wickham. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley don’t really have to work, but more so they manage the family businesses and keep everything in line. The Bennet family has money, but because women are still having to prove themselves in order to be a part of any generational/family business and it is usually seen to be passed to men, that’s why Mrs. Bennet wants her daughters married off. Mr. Wickham is on soldier income. Mr. Collins gets money from helping Lady Catherine and as a clergyman.
 - d. Political Context -
 - i. Subtle hints towards women’s rights in how the mother treats the daughters based on the social expectations of them in their class. Classism between Mr. Darcy in the beginning and the Bennet family. Some sexism in how the women are treated versus the men.
 - e. Educational Context -
 - i. I think they all have a good education while the men were pushed to complete higher degrees. They all have a good, well-rounded education.
 - f. Artistic Context -

- i. When Bingley comes to the home Mrs. Bennet shows off Jane's accomplishments so I think some kind of art work would be here. Wickham asks Lizzy to play, but Jane instead plays and shows her skill.
 - g. Religious Context -
 - i. I think all of the characters practice Christianity, but it's not fully said in the script other than what Mr. Collins' job is as a clergyman. I feel like the Bennet daughters were raised on every Sunday we go to church throughout their lives.
 - h. Cultural Context -
 - i. There are high society expectations and pressures of how they are supposed to act and be. Mr. Collins' character is a tell for this in how he acts. How Mrs. Bennet acts towards keeping her daughters clean and holding them to a specific standard in order for them to be her "suitable" for the potential suitors. I feel like Mrs. Bennet feels like there is a huge pressure on her in order to raise her daughters into this society and be accepted.
- 2. Characters:
 - a. Protagonist - Lizzy
 - i. I chose Elizabeth as the protagonist, because she's not only one of the main characters in the play, but because of how she's treated in front of other people by her mother. Even when she gets proposed to by Mr. Collins and refuses him, her mother doesn't want to hear it. All she wants to do is live a normal life hence why she's grateful for when her father steps in and says that she can't marry him. Her father wants his children to marry for love like he did which is why Lizzy doesn't accept the first person to propose to her even though that's what her mother wants.
 - b. Antagonist - Mrs. Bennet
 - i. I chose Mrs. Bennet is the antagonist, because she only ever thinks what's good for their family image. Yes, one could argue that she is doing this out of love, but the way she puts down Lizzy in comparison to Jane just because she rather have Jane married off to Mr. Bingley is upsetting. She wants her daughters married off as soon as possible. That's why when Mr. Collins proposes to Lizzy, but gets rejected; she becomes infuriated with her daughter to the point of threatening Lizzy into marrying him or she'll never speak to her again.
 - c. In Act I we have:
 - i. Mr. Bennet - third - level character: He isn't in much of the scene, but when he is it is for a specific important moment. We start and end the Act with him.
 - ii. Mrs. Bennet - Secondary

- iii. Jane Bennet - Secondary
- iv. Elizabeth Bennet - Primary
- v. Lydia Bennet - Third - level: She is in a few scenes, and like Mr. Bennet, is important when she is there because she sets the stage for some drama later on
- vi. Mr. Collins - Secondary
- vii. Mr. Wickham - Secondary
- viii. Mr. Bingley - Secondary
- ix. Mr. Darcy - Primary

Pride and Prejudice
Dramaturgy
Packet!

Directors: Lily Higginbotham, Star Smith, Laura Leigh Johnson

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- 6. Themes*
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- 8. Let's Set the Scene! (Images regarding the play)*

Synopsis!

1. Original Synopsis of the play: *Pride and Prejudice* follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome the titular sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry.
2. Adaptation of the First Act Synopsis: In the first act, we are introduced to the Bennet family, particularly Mrs. Bennet's obsession with finding suitable husbands for her daughters. The arrival of the eligible bachelor Mr. Bingley seems to spark a lot of interest specifically with Mrs. Bennet as she's eager to see him married to one of her eldest daughters, Jane. As the first act continues it sets the stage for the developing relationships including Elizabeth Bennet, the second oldest, and Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley's best friend. It dives into themes of societal expectations, class distinctions, and the impact of individual character on relationships. We see the unfolding of pride, prejudice, and love that will shape the rest of the story.

Setting!

1. We're set in the early afternoon in the quaint living room of the Bennet family's Longbourn Estate in Hertfordshire, England in the year 2024.



About Jane Austen and why she wrote *Pride and Prejudice*!

- Jane Austen was an English novelist at the end of the 18th century who wrote novels that interpret, critique, and comment on British social class. Her novels normally revolve and explore the dependence of women on marriage so that their families and themselves can move up in social class and have economic security. *Pride and Prejudice*, originally known as *First Impressions*, was written in 10 months while Jane was at the age of 20. It's been said that the love interest of our lovely Miss Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy is based on her own relationship during the time of her writing this novel.

Character Breakdown!

1. *Mr. Bennet* - A reserved, quiet, older man in late 40s who loves his wife and children. The status quo of everyone doesn't quite matter to him as much as his wife, but he goes along with it to keep her happy. As long as his girls, specifically Elizabeth, are happy and safe then all is okay
2. *Mrs. Bennet* - A very out there, loud older woman a little younger, but still around the same age as Mr. Bennet. She is obsessed with the status of her family, marrying her girls off to potential suitors, and having her family elevated in society. Her character adds a little humor with how her children and her husband react to her.
3. *Jane Bennet* - A shy, anxious young lady in her early to middle twenties. She finds Mr. Bingley attractive, but is too shy to show her true intentions. She prefers to have less of a spotlight on her, but being the eldest with a mother who wants to show her off doesn't let that happen.
4. *Elizabeth Bennet* - A somewhat arrogant, opinionated young woman in her early to middle twenties. She's quick to give a sarcastic comment or to tell someone what she's thinking. She's her father's favorite and takes after him with her love of reading.
5. *Lydia Bennet* - The youngest of the three, sees that her older sisters are being shown off to potential matches and wants the same for herself. Very innocent and flirtatious to Mr. Wickham and the other soldiers.
6. *Mr. Collins* - A very stuck up, played by society's rules, young man in his mid twenties. He's boring and holds high expectations of how things are to go. He's very formal with a mix of pride and lack of social awareness in himself.
7. *Mr. Wickham* - A very deceiving, manipulative soldier in the army in his mid twenties. His true intentions aren't revealed till later in the story, but his role in this act is to charm and disarm the Bennet family, specifically Elizabeth. Only Darcy knows what Wickham's possible true intentions are.
8. *Mr. Bingley* - A good-natured, wealthy, gentleman in his mid twenties. He's a kind, a little nervous, but very approachable man. His character gives a very positive element, including his relationship with Jane, against the other more complex relationships in the story.
9. *Mr. Darcy* - A wealthy, high class, reserved, complex young man in his mid twenties. Perceived as arrogant because of his views towards the Bennet family, but as the story goes on his demeanor starts to slip, especially around Elizabeth. He appears standoffish, but as he warms up to Elizabeth, we really see that he's a gentleman that will do anything for those he loves.

Glossary Terms!

- Iniquitous (in-iq-ui-tous) : grossly unfair or morally wrong
- Botany (bot-a-ny) : the scientific study of plants, including their physiology, structure, genetics, ecology, distribution, classification, and economic importance

Themes!

There are some really relevant themes throughout the original play that are pretty prevalent today.

- *Family dynamics* : We see all different types such as the sibling rivalry and the matchmaking mother in the Bennet family, to the questionable Collins and the Bingleys. We see the sister love between the Bennet sisters and the fatherly love between Mr. Bennet and his daughters.
- *Romance/Love* : This is a love story. We follow the different aspects of attraction all the way up to deep connections and respect between our characters.
- *Humor and Satire* : We use satire, wit, sarcasm, and more to poke fun at society norms and expectations, specifically at what the older generations expect of the younger generations.

Useful social, historical, and cultural context!

While the original play and novel was set in the early 19th century, some of the context even in our adapted version apply to today's times.

- *Social Expectations* : We see the society expectations in primarily Mr. and Mrs. Bennet with how they carry themselves, talk of what they're leaving to their children, the people they associate with in order to gain another step in society, and so on. Mr. Collins also expects something of his cousins when he hears that a higher class gentleman is coming over to meet the family and how he speaks of his patroness Lady Catherine.
- *Class System* : They're all apart of the wealthier or higher class, even Mr. Collins and Mr. Wickham, although they might not have it in money, they have it in family and friends. We see the prejudice of Mr. Darcy towards the Bennet family also because of the class system. He comments on how small their house is and even their education. In today's society we still see this prejudice between classes based on the assumption of people not being able to have the same opportunities and privileges. It also comments on the imbalance in wealth and social status.
- *Gender Roles and the Role of Women in Society* : The novel showcases a number of instances where the expectations placed on individuals based on their gender. While there have been major advances in not only women's rights, but gender equality as a whole, there are still issues surrounding representation, gender equality, and empowerment today.

Let's set the scene!

As seen earlier underneath the setting tab, we're set in the living room or drawing room of the Bennet family estate for the entire Act 1. Here is a sensory collage to help set the image!

What we See!



We know how Mr. Bennet and Lizzy love reading so imagine a comfy living room where a close family can gather around with books on a shelf or even on a table. This helps us imagine the room we're stepping in. Oh and we can't forget Jane's lovely plants!

What we Hear!



We have a lot of character entrances and exits so the sounds of the front door opening and closing can be heard throughout the house. We also have a moment where Jane plays the piano so the instrument can be heard during that scene.

What we Taste!



It is very common for people in Europe to have tea prepared for their guests. I'd imagine that it's something more so prepared for visitors. I imagine the sweat would be what Mr. Collins is tasting what we might see as he's proposing to Lizzy.

What we Touch!



The couch is our focal point for the scenes. All the action happens around it seeing as it's a bigger piece of furniture and essentially also a piece of furniture a lot of people gravitate too when entering a room. The knitting represents what Mrs. Bennet is seen using in the beginning of the play while she talks to Mr. Bennet. The letter is Wickham's excuse for coming back to the Bennet household after his meeting. He wants to come back to see if he can win Lizzy over, but discovers Mr. Darcy there.

What we smell!



I think the same aspect of the tea from earlier, we might smell freshly prepared bread or pastries for guests or visitors. The rain is from the normal weather in England and how it rained possibly from the day before or earlier that morning which caused Lizzy to have mud on her shoes.

MAR/APR 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

17

Read Through –
3:30 – 5:30
Everyone?

18

LI – 8:30-9:30
S – 9:30 - 11

19

LL – 3:30-5:30

20

LI – 8:30-10
S – 10 - 11

21

LL – 1-2:30
LI – 2:30 - 4

22

S – 4:30 – 6:30

23

31

April 1

LL – 3-5

2

LI – 8:30-9:30
S – 9:30 - 11

3

S -9:30 – 11
LL – 1-3

4

5

6

7

LL – 1-2:20
LI – 2:30 - 4

8

LI – 8:30-9:30
S – 9:30 - 11

9

10

LI – 8:30-10
S – 10 - 11

11

LL – 1-2:30
LI – 2:30 - 4

12

13

14

Off-Book

LL – 3-5

15

LI – 8:30-9:30
S – 9:30 - 11

16

17

S -9:30 - 11

18

Full Run
1-4

19

Full Run
1-4

20

adfgas

21

Full Run
1-4

22

Full Run
1-4

23

24

Full Run
Tech Rehearsal

25

Dress Rehearsal
Early Afternoon?
One Acts

26

Dress Rehearsal
Chain of Fools
Screening

27

28

Performance