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Musical Theatre Cabaret: One Moment

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### *Musical Theatre Cabaret: One Moment*

The Musical Theatre Cabaret has been a heartfelt AU Players tradition since the winter of 2008. Since its humble beginnings, I have witnessed the show grow in size, caliber, and production quality as an audience member, actor, and now finally, a director. For the first time ever, the Cabaret was performed in the Katzen Studio Theatre where we were able to implement exciting new levels of lighting, scenery, staging, and choreography. When searching for a theme for the show, I began to draw inspiration from the musical revue *Songs for a New World* by Jason Robert Brown. I found exactly what I was looking for in a line from the show's opening number: "It's about one moment, the moment before it all becomes clear, and in that one moment, you start to believe there's nothing to fear." The most riveting type of musical theatre comes from characters who are at a pivotal moment in their life. When it's as though their whole life could change by the time they have finished singing. I was adamant on using this production to chronicle the journey of the characters involved and to tell a riveting story, rather than solely feature the musical talents of my classmates. Using songs from contemporary musical theatre ranging from *Spring Awakening* and *Ragtime* to *In the Heights* and *Next to Normal*, I cut and pasted various solos, duets, and group numbers and wove them into a brand new story with the help of my co-director, music directors, accompanist, and choreographer. The audience invested in and connected with these characters as they blindly dove into the unknown and wished for the best. They met an ensemble of characters searching for something greater in life: a lover, dancer, fiancée, criminal, waitress, stoner, sister, brother, mother, dreamer...to name a few. It was my goal as the director, to transport the audience on this journey while we all examined moments of adventure, moments of love, moments of fear, moments of nostalgia, moments of grief, moments of forgiveness, and ultimately, moments of hope.

Links to videos of the performance:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL536B9835F3CE5C1F&feature=addto>