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THE TOY THEATER PROJECT



HISTORY OF TOY THEATER

Toy theatre is said to have started in the late seventeenth hundreds. The story goes that European nomads would bring plays and stories from larger cities to the small towns scattered throughout the country. They would construct small theatre-like structures representative of their larger counterparts. It is believed that Shakespeare himself had a toy theatre model of his Old Globe playhouse. The theatre itself was usually made of some type of cardboard, and more specialized theatres were made of fine woods. In addition, small characters would be handmade to look like the actors in the production. Most often, the travelers would go to the small towns to educate and entertain children with the plays from the large cities. Hence, an alternative name for toy theatre is “children’s theatre”. Toy theatres became more common in the nineteenth century mostly due to mass-production. Vendors would construct replicas of popular plays, and sold kits that people assembled at home, including stage, scenery, characters and costumes. Today’s innovations to toy theatre include the addition of projection and digital sound. With the introduction of digital sound, toy theatre took another step forward in enveloping the audience into each story being told.

-Sam Diamond

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over the past twelve weeks English and Digital Arts and Sound Production have combined together to create what is known as the Senior Project. This is the last hurrah for the seniors and is a project that combines our skills over our entire high school experience. This semester we were asked to create a toy theater play. Toy theater was created back in the Victorian times when a miniature theater was built, and a play was performed within it. We have taken this lesser known form of production and created ten short plays. Each play explores a topic of great importance in the world, and created an important turning point in history. In English class each individual created a research paper in which they explored a certain topic regarding their turning point. Those papers were the start to the story of our toy theater, which was created in our Digital Arts and Sound Production class. In groups we created storyboards, cultivated an artistic direction, created animations, sounds, and characters for our toy theaters. These 2-D designs are brought to life through the mix of the projection, sound, and cutout props and characters each group created. It has been a long journey but well worth it. Through the critiques, cutting, and planning of these plays, we have come to create meaningful work that displays important historical events in our world.

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Cristeros War

Daniela Ortiz, Karina Felix, Marcos Ramirez, Giovana Munoz, Adriana Navarro



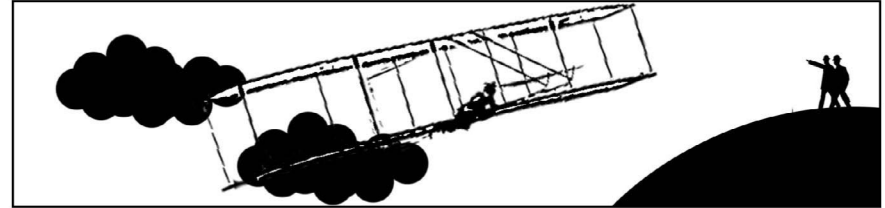
After the Mexican Government took away religious freedom following the Mexican Revolution, citizens came together and through faith fought for their religious freedoms.

The Cristero War was a rebellion for religious freedom that took place in Mexico in the late 1920's. The Cristeros were a group of Mexican citizens who rebelled against the government when laws were placed against their right to practice their religion. To them, their religion was their freedom, a way to express themselves and their faith. In the end, the Cristeros won the war and overthrew their president. Although the war in Mexico is long over, there are still many incidents in the past and still today where people are fighting for freedom of all kinds. For the

Cristeros, freedom came with many sacrifices. They sacrificed their lives, and showed impressive willingness by putting themselves in danger for their faith. Through this war it is demonstrated how people fought for the freedom citizens in Mexico have today and often take for granted. The war shows how a group of people came together and organized themselves with perseverance and courage to fight for what they believe in; verbally and physically. This war showed how the people of Mexico can bring positive paradigm shifts into their community, even through war.

Wright Brothers

Luis Aguirre, Adriana Bustillos, Cesar Casteneda, Jocelyn Leon, Halan Castrejon



A before and after look at the Wright Brothers and how their creation of the first powered glider revolutionized aviation.

Seeing a piece of heavy metal soaring through the sky is pretty miraculous. Any person would agree that aviation has had major impacts in our civilization such as an increase in marketing, trade, communications, travel, and transportation. However, has aviation solely impacted us in positive ways or is aviation a two sided coin? From the

moment the Wright brothers created the first man operated flight vehicle, they had not only taken the next step in flight technology, but they had created a tool that could be used in both great and terrible ways. Airplanes have opened new doors to different weapons systems, making human extermination much more efficient.

Pearl Harbor

Jeanette Rodriguez, Patrick Castro, Jocelyn Salcedo,
Jocelyn Acevedo, Kevin Aceves



How the tragic event of Pearl Harbor came about by taking a look at the politics behind America and Japan.

Pearl Harbor was a key part of American, and world history. It was the pebble that started an avalanche, the first link in a chain of events. If the Japanese had not attacked Pearl Harbor, the United States would not have entered World War Two, or they would have entered it too late. The U.S entrance eventually lead to the Manhattan project, which concluded with the atom bomb ending the war and thousands of civilian lives.

If America had not entered the war they would not have gone through a very dark chapter of their history, the chapters title: Internment Camps. Most of all, it is important to portray the great consequences when two powers believe they are just. The Japanese with the sneak attack, the Americans with the atomic bombs, and all the events in between. It is important to know that anyone, big or small, is capable of great and unfortunate things.

Manhattan Project

Zac Gill, Tyler Murphy, Vander Thomas, Morgan Beltz



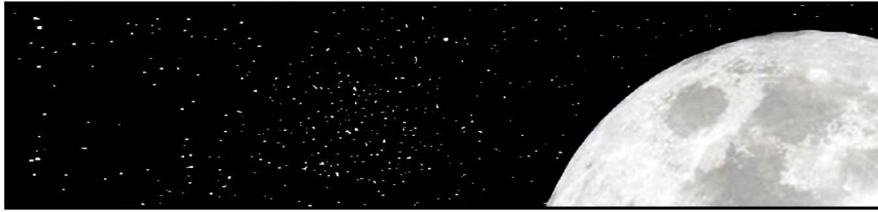
An exploration into the creation, development, and use of the atomic bomb

Despite the destructive end-result that the Manhattan Project brought about, the dedication, innovation, and unrestrained brilliance that the science team behind it needed for the project to come to fruition is frequently and heavily overshadowed by the bombs that they pro-

duced. It is also overlooked that the Manhattan Project was essentially the genesis of atomic research, and kick-started mankind into the Atomic Age, paving the way for new innovations in both the civilian and military applications of nuclear energy.

Moon Landing

David Espe, Lindsay Miedema, Taylor Wilkinson, Samantha Valenzula, Danielle Weiss



A look at the tension between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. as the race to be the first to land man on the moon reached its peak.

On July 20, 1969, the United States' Apollo 11 voyage successfully landed on the moon. This renowned accomplishment is known as the greatest astronomical achievement in world history. However, society often overlooks the physical labor, political tension, and drama between the United States and The Soviet Union leading up to the voyage. The "Space Race", for example, was a series of technological competitions between the US and USSR, to create the most optimal rocket possible. This production's intent is to enlighten its viewers on the often forgotten events leading up to the moon landing and the United States' superiority.

Woodstock

Jack Marshke, Chelsea Glickman, Luke Rosenberg, Oliver Reyes



A look at how Jimmy Hendrix's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at Woodstock following the Vietnam war inspired activism and music.

Somewhere amongst the drugs, rain, and rock and roll Woodstock has become an event merely seen as just a memory by those who have heard of its legendary moments. Many forget the power and influence the upstate New York concert played on the young generation of the 60's and its impact on modern music. A pivotal moment that occurred at Woodstock was Jimi Hendrix's performance. By portraying Hendrix as the center of Woodstock, Jimi continues to inspire others, just as he once did forty-three years ago. His interpretation of "The Star Spangled Banner" in response to the Vietnam war, was a powerful activist piece that still lives on today. This toy theatre production on Woodstock will allow the audience to understand and appreciate the power of peaceful protest through music.

Moog

Eric Simpson, Lianna Wehrung, Vincent Skalka, Rachel Taylor



How the synthesizer influenced modern music, told through the prospective of the synthesizer itself.

This toy theater production shows how change is often resisted, but also how change can drastically alter something so firmly established. This idea is represented through the invention of the synthesizer. The synthesizer opened new doors for music, but others saw it as an abomination. The focus is on the synthesizer's impact on the music world and the resistance it generated. The synthesizer is portrayed as a person to make our performance more theatrical and to challenge the audience.

Tiananmen Square

Jovan Millet, Haley Holmes, Jennifer Seibold, Illiana Guriant, Ben Martinez

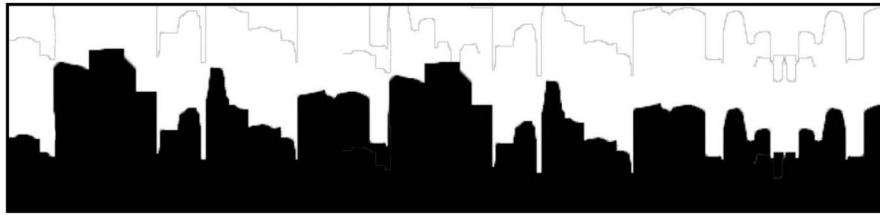


Tiananmen square remains in peoples' minds still today, yet social issues have yet to be resolved following this tragic protest.

China went to great lengths to make the government listen to their pleas for economic reform. At first, the Chinese appealed to the government with suggestions towards economic reform. These appeals were turned down without even a glance. Then the citizens started hunger strikes, which also failed to induce change. In a last resort, the Chinese citizens resulted to violence. And on June 4, 1989, people from all social classes risked and/or lost their lives during the Tiananmen Square Massacre due to the country's declaration of martial law. The military took action against the protests without the consent of their government. As a result, bullets flew with no aim and military tanks rolled over protesters without hesitation. After all of this death and loss, nothing has changed. To this day, no modifications have been made to improve the government or the lives of the people.

Watts Rebellion

Raynesha Harris, Vincent Culliver, Lara Seghdat, Karen Arroyo



A look into Rodney King and Marquette Fry; men brutalized by police, who inspired the Watts Rebellion and LA Riots.

This production infuses the rebellion of 1965 and the rebellion of 1992 to show the timelessness and severity that these events represent. The audience will take a step away from present day to absorb the factors that lead to social and economical chaos. This topic was carefully constructed using correct dialogue and terms such as rebellion rather than riot in order to portray the events as they occurred. These are known events in America's history, yet the reasons they took place are often overlooked. In this performance the social and economical differences are uncovered and brought to surface to display the importance of history in order to better the future and avoid repeating the past. After evaluating the many components that lead to these social differences we then would like for you to ask yourself what has changed, and is this nation due for yet another rebellion?

Milk

Noah Breslauer, Spencer Williams, Emily Fine, Luna Rey



A look into the influence of Harvey Milk, a man who dedicated his life to equality for all.

Harvey Milk and his role in the progression of the LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) community influenced a community which is frequently scrutinized and misunderstood. When people think of progress in human rights, they often think of martyrs such as Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Malcolm X, and many other leaders working to obtain freedom for their communities. When people think of the LGBT community,

many are unable to identify a significant person who led change in the group. A lot of individuals today struggle to understand the goals of the LGBT community, but they like so many groups before them are fighting for their basic human rights. It is this fight that is highlighted in our toy theater. The production does not just convey who Harvey Milk was and what he did, but that anyone has the power in to invoke change.