

Candidate 7 evidence

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4.	A play I have studied is 'Things I know to be true' by Terence Wm Andrew Bovell. First performed in 2016, the play follows the busy lives of the Price family for a year as they explore themes of love, loss, identity and grief. In this essay I will show the ways the character of Fran creates dramatic tension, as an actor.
	The first scene in which the character of Fran creates dramatic tension is in an argument she has with her daughter, Pip. Pip has come to visit her childhood home and Fran questions her on why she is there, Fran finds it weird to see Pip sitting for so long in their house. Pip tells Fran that she is leaving her husband, Steve. Fran is outraged and disagrees completely with Pip's decision, she doesn't think it is right nor fair, especially since they have children together. This also shows some internal conflict inside Fran as she was once in a similar situation, where she was going to leave her husband, Bob, but she stayed because of the kids and but believes Pip should do the same. Fran says: "your happiness is not what matters here." As an actor playing Fran in this moment I would say this line with an angry facial expression: furrowed brow, eyes squinted and lips pursed. This is to show that Fran
	Pace Pitch Tone Rhythm Articulation Fluency Inflection Clarity Pause Accent Volume Emphasis

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	is angry and outraged at Pip's decision and her inconsideration for the other people involved in Pip's decision. I would also use a furious tone of voice, with loud volume, emphasis on the word 'your.' This is to further display Fran's anger and concern that she has in this moment. The emphasis further shows that, similar to the situation Fran was in, she believes it is not the mother's happiness that should be put in priority, it's the children's, and Fran will stand by that. This creates dramatic tension by building anger and frustration in the relationship between Pip and Fran and causing a rift between them as they are both stubborn people who will not back down from their decisions. Fran also says in this scene: "too bad. you've got kids. you make it work." As an actor playing Fran, when delivering this line I would use straight posture, direct eye contact, gesture - pointing at Pip with my pointer finger on my left hand - (on the words 'you make it work') and loud volume, emphasis on the words 'kids' and an annoyed facial expression: eyes squinted, teeth gritted, brows furrowed. This would be to try and intimidate Pip. Fran is trying to	

Mystery
Surprise

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	persuade pip to do the same thing she did and even if that means that she tears their already unstable relationship in doing so. I believe using these acting concepts would highlight Fran's intimidating and angry method of persuasion. This creates dramatic tension by further weakening the relationship between pip and Fran. This creates tension of relationships. Showing Fran to be an intimidating and harsh mother - even if the message behind it is just her looking out for her children. Another moment in 'Things I know to be true' which shows Fran creating tension is when her son (oldest child) Mark comes out to her and her husband (Bob) as being transgender. Mark is in his thirties and finally has the bravery to tell his parents that he is transgender. Bob and Fran, especially, do not take this news particularly well. Fran says in the moment: "I am a mother and I am losing something I don't want to lose." As an actor playing Fran in this moment, I would say this line with direct eye contact to show Mark how hurt Fran is at his news but also because	

I will look ~~at~~ for my son in her eyes and mourn his loss.

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	in this moment, Fran is realising Mark will not cook the way she's always known him to all his life for much longer, she would use direct eye contact to take in all of the last moments of Mark that she can. I would also use quiet volume with an upset tone of voice to emphasise that this news has saddened Fran and she will need a lot of time to fully accept what she's hearing, but for now she knows that her son will no longer be her son. I would use slouched posture and use gesture to point both hands into my chest on 'I am a mother and I am losing something' and then put both hands flat on my chest, as if to clutch my heart on 'I don't want to lose' this shows the audience that Fran is upset, heartbroken and trying to make herself heard as much as she knows this is Mark's decision, it breaks a part of her life apart too. This creates tension of relationships as Fran knows she will no longer have the child she's always known, the one that made her a mother and Mark realises how his decision will cause disance in his relationship with his mother forever.	

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	furrowed brows. This further creates tension in the relationship between Fran and Mark. As she displays anger at his choices and decision within himself that he may not be happy with either, highlighting to the audience the tension within their relationship as Fran At the shows anger at who her son is going to become.
	A third moment within 'Things I know to be true' which shows Fran creating tension is in a conversation she has with Bob. Previous to this conversation Bob and Fran find out that their second son, Ben, has been skimming and owes some scary people a lot of money. Fran offers to pay this money for Ben with a secret stash of money she has kept and built on for years, Bob is angry that he wasn't aware of this money and brings it up with Fran. Fran says: "It was my get out money Bob. I saw it happen to my mother, trapped in a miserable marriage because she couldn't afford to leave, I wasn't going to let it happen to me." As an actor playing Fran in this moment would

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	deliver this line with quiet volume, emphasis on the word 'afford' in direct eye contact and straight posture. This would help to emphasise to the audience that Fran is a fallen actress that little frustrated Bob found out but she is not embarrassed of it; she knows she's done what she had to do for her own best interests - she is not a shamed. The in direct eye contact shows that yes, Fran did this in a just-in-case type of way, but maybe she has more to hide, maybe there was a point where she might've thought to leave - this foreshadows to the audience the conversation about to be had between Bob and Fran. Fran also says later in this scene - when her and Bob have opened up more about their relationship, and Fran's moment many years ago where she did consider leaving - "you can't love someone for thirty years" when saying this line as Fran, I would use in direct eye contact, quiet volume, slouched posture as in sit beside Bob, an upset facial expression - brows turned in, eyes wide, mouth slightly frowned to show that it breaks Fran's heart to have to tell

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A play I have seen recently is 'Trainspotting' by Irvine Welsh and the stage adaptation by Harry Gibson performed by In Yer Face Theatre at the EICC. The style of the performance was immersive, the audience were a part of and seated close to the action. The play showed the lives of a group of drug addicts living in Edinburgh. In this essay I will show how the message ~~was~~ of drug use and their effects on individuals, families, and societies was ~~per-~~ communicated within the performance.

The first key scene in the play that communicated this message ~~at~~ was the famous 'worst toilet in Scotland' scene. At the start of the scene, the main character Mark Renton wakes up in his flat fully naked with a ~~thin~~ thin blanket covered in pieces as his only method of covering up. The set design in this scene helped ~~mass~~ ~~very~~ in communicating the message as the set was extremely sparse. There was a singular dirty couch at one end of the avenue staging and that was it. The effectiveness of this design ~~can~~ communicates to the audience how drugs truly take over an individual's life.

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	Mark is left with very little - its extremely sparse because he has devoted time, effort and money into his drug addiction which consumes him. This communicates the message of drug addiction and its effects on individuals to the audience. Mark wakes up and starts walking the stage still with his blanket covering him before he breaks the 4th fourth wall. This means that Mark acts and reacts to the audience rather than pretending they're not there. I believe that the directors choice to have the actor be fully nude helps to communicate to the audience how drug use causes vulnerability and a loss of dignity. Mark climbs on, talks to, and comments on members of the audience as he makes his way to the large toilet placed on the right side of the avenue seating and in the middle of a large audience. As mark is making his way there his interactions with the audience puts them on edge / panicked, whats he going to say and where he going to pee next? this helps the audience to understand how the characters feel when they are under	

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	the influence of drugs - on edge and panicked.
	An effective choice by the director, helping the audience understand how drugs affect someone individually. As Mark gets to the toilet, he begins to pull face excrements out of the toilet and flings them across the theatre, including getting the audience members around the toilet completely soaked. I believe the directors intention around this was to communicate the message to the audience that drug use does not only affect those who are addicted, but it affects everyone in society as the audience members are flushed and shatred at and soaked.
	Another key scene in 'Transporting' which helps communicate the message is Tommy's interview scene. Tommy, who is not particularly interested in drugs at this point in the play is interviewing for a janitors position at a private school - he is feeling nervous about this interview so Mark gives him some drugs to take to calm his nerves. These drugs do almost the opposite and put Tommy into a state of

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	hyper panic where he is constantly moving and fidgeting, he cannot sit still. Tommy goes for his interview and sits down on a broken chair at the far left side of the avenue staging and the interviewer sits stands on the far right side. The director effectively uses proxemics to display the social difference between the two people in terms of social class, also Tommy sitting down on the chair and the interviewer standing allowed the use of levels to further display to the audience the difference in status and social class between the two. As Tommy is hyper-fidgeting and moving - the interviewer is standing completely still apart from her mouth moving when she is talking, This emphasises to the audience the stability that drug use takes away. Tommy's life is no longer stable and he never knows what's coming next because of the drug use he is surrounded by - this helps communicate to the audience how drug use affects individuals. The actor of Tommy and the interviewer's costumes also display the distance between them because of the addiction Tommy is surrounded by. Tommy is wearing dark colours - black trousers, black shoes, a dark green hoodie

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	about 30 seconds later in a completely different mood. Alison comes on crying her eyes out, she drops to the floor centre stage and with loud volume and distraught facial expression starts trying to speak to her friends, tell them what's going on but her words are inaudible, she uses gesture to point to Sickboy who is standing at the far left side of the arena staging clutching Alisons baby. Sickboy uses in direct eye contact, distraught facial expression: struggling to contain his frown, tears streaming down his face, and he can't keep his eyes open. The use of these acting concepts shows the audience how their drug use - as their addiction caused them to be neglective of their child leading to its death - has negatively impacted them individually and their family as a whole. It is not immediately obvious to the audience what has happened or what is going on but that helps the audience to understand how the characters of Mark and Begby also feel in that moment as they don't know what's going on either - they just want their high to stop so they can help their friends in their time of need but their addiction	

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	will not let them be the friends they need to be in serious situations.	
	A final key moment in transporting which conveys the message is is the scene in which Tommy dies. Tommy is on one end of the avenue staging end the now clean from drugs Mark is on the other. The scene is set in Tommy's flat which contains one dirty mattress on the floor which he is sat upon. The design choice to have that be the only set helps to emphasise to the audience how much of Tommy's life he has lost due to drugs and his growing addiction as the development of Tommy's character is what leads to his death as he gets continuously more addicted throughout the play. Tommy takes his final injection of drugs and as he does he staggers to the centre stage where he collapses. Mark runs to his aid and calls for help - Reggy, Sick boy, Alison all come to Tommy's aid and they begin to strip Tommy of his clothes. I believe the director's intention behind this was to highlight to the audience how drug addiction leads to a loss of dignity and	

comfortably numb

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	Vulnerability - shown through the removal of Tommy's clothes. As they begin to carry Tommy to his mattress, there is a blackout and a blue strobe falls the theatre, the strobe is flashing at a high speed and causes the actors movements to appear unrealistic as they run across the stage. As an audience member in this moment, I just wanted the strobe to stop so badly. It caused me to feel sick and distorted and I couldn't wait for it to end - This helped me understand how Tommy would have felt in that moment too as he was dying sick, distorted, and waiting for it all to end. The directors intentions behind the strobe where to were to aid the audiences understanding of Tommy's feelings in that moment too. During the strobe, the song 'comfortably numb' by Pink Floyd begins to play at a loud volume. I believe this song is about addiction and accepting impending death. The directors intentions behind playing this song were to foreshadow Tommy's death about to happen.	

