

Department of Theater & Dance
Production Meeting Notes



Production: Tick Tick...Boom!

Stage Manager: Morgan Millard

Date: Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025

Director (Dr.Nic):

- Time: What does it make us feel?
 - o Constructions of times – marking major milestones and limitations. Personal feelings & outside forces (society, cultures) that frame that for us and the structural conditions that shape our thoughts.
 - o Subjectivity of time – the ideas of continuity and running out of time
 - o John's Anxiety: Ambiguous artist, losing focus on what is important in his life – he feels the pressures from outside forces (family & friends) but also incredibly jealousy of their lives.
 - Social Pressures + Lack of Time → Breakdown
 - o “How social pressures to meet certain (largely arbitrary) goals according to normative (largely arbitrary) lifelines can break down our sense of self, each other, the world around us, our goals, hopes, and dreams.”
 - Enacted by both John and other characters, but the sense that he lacks time is largely internal to Jon but is hugely informed by American cultural and societal norms.
 - Leads to a failure in communication with Lover, missing signals that his best friend has HIV/AIDS, and downplaying his own talents.
 - World of the Play: 1990s (Would like to maintain the aesthetics of the period)
 - o George H.W. Bush was president, AIDS crisis continues, Booming Age of Television, Madonna topping the music charts, the increasing price of Broadway and the death of Keith Haring
 - o New York was a less touristy-friendly and gritty place
 - Johnthan Larson (1960-1996): Creator of *Tick Tick Boom* and *Rent*
 - o Passed away the night before *Rent*'s transfer to Broadway
 - o Worked as a pianist and actor at the Barn Theatre in Michigan, which Nic has a deep-personal connection to!
 - o *Tick Tick...Boom!* Is highly autobiographical to Johnthan Larson's life
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Scenery (Nate & Dylan):

- Abstract – not photo realistic.
 - Keeping it simple (Both aesthetically and practically)
 - Nic would like to play with levels on the Fred Floor and to keep a majority of the show in the thrust
 - o Feels like a stationary show (An off-off Broadway basement show)
 - Nic is open to having exposed lighting elements and the potential of having an arena-setting stage.
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Costumes (Anna, Logan):

- Small changes to actors who play multiple characters (to differentiate)
 - o Such items that accomplish this goal can be stored on stage, either lying about the set or pocketed by actors.
 - The only character overlap is Rosa, who is played by both Michael and Susan
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Props (Mandy):

- There will be props!
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Lights (Mandy):

- There will be lights!
 - The musical songs will lead the style in terms of lighting.
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Sound (David):

- Sound can help shape the environment & the space of the 1990s and NY
 - There will be no microphones or band (Will be using tracks)
 - If an actor is casted who has the ability to play piano, David would like to play with this actually occurring on stage.
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Dramaturgy (Ozzy):

- Researching the newspapers of the period, including headlines and particularly AIDS in the performance space
- Focusing on the time leading up to his Birthday (Jan. 28th – Feb 4th, 1990)

Stage Management (Morgan & Leah):

- No Notes Today!

Other:

- Our preliminary design meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th (during final weeks), but both the date & time is completely flexible depending on everybody's calendars!