

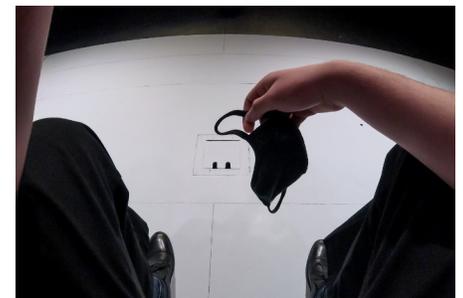
# THE VOICE

AN MICDS DRAMA PROGRAM SPECIAL

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## *After the Fire*



Photos Courtesy of MICDS Drama

## THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS:



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Recently, *The Voice* had the opportunity to interview Mimi Brown ('21) to learn about the MICDS Drama Program's production, *After the Fire*. At *The Voice*, we love celebrating our community's interests and activities, and we hope that you take the time to not only immerse yourself in this production via the interview write-up, but also by attending the virtual stream of the production! For information in addition to the interview below, please visit <https://www.micds.org/after-the-fire/>

### **Can you please give us a brief synopsis of *After the Fire*? What can viewers expect to see?**

*After the Fire* follows a group of characters with unique stories who unite during a Friday night service at the Church of Digital Affirmation. Each scene is written and directed by a different member of our artist collective, and our characters range from the conscious and subconscious minds to a math teacher who *just doesn't understand*. The show explores how each character is "coping," either successfully or unsuccessfully, with the challenges of this year. All elements of the production, from script writing to music composition, were done by MICDS students! The show is perfect for all audiences ages 13 and up.

### **How does the production speak to the current state of our new normal?**

This show speaks to all the things we may have felt over the course of this year: we watch characters struggle to keep their distance, fight their inner demons, and lose their minds. They're isolated, lonely, and need each other, just like all of us. I think that everyone, no matter how they happen to be handling this, will find a character in the show with whom they resonate.

### **How has theater been different during the pandemic?**

While the general rehearsal process has followed a similar structure to in-person shows, the pandemic really changed the way we went about putting this show together. There's the obvious setback of not being able to walk into a rehearsal room and create a scene within 6 feet of each other, but the ways that Mr. Huber adapted the process actually made it possible for each of us to participate on multiple levels. We were able to write, act, direct, design, and more – all from the comfort of our own homes. We are all so grateful to have the technology to make this possible, especially because so

many professional theaters are struggling right now. Thus, we've changed our ticket system from previous years: now, admission to the premiere is pay-what-you-want, and all proceeds benefit the Theater Sustainment Fund.

### **What has been your favorite part of rehearsing and preparing for *After the Fire*?**

I have two answers to this. My first is that, as a whole, I loved seeing us make something out of nothing. Usually, we'll have a script, but, in this case, we had a Bible passage and a couple ideas. We wrote the script, cast the show, and filmed everything in a matter of months – it was amazing to see this come together. My other, more specific favorite part was choreographing the dance. Aside from the prologue, the dance was the only part of the show that was shot on the stage, so it felt more like the "traditional" rehearsal process. While I know that normalcy is far away, it was nice to have that sense of (masked, socially-distanced) physical togetherness again.

### **Can you give us any insider details about the production?**

I think one of the coolest things about this show is that each scene is inspired by someone in the cast, written by someone else, and then directed by another person. This means that each idea has gone through multiple people, who will have all added to the scene in a different way. This multi-level collaboration is something that makes the production very special – there's nothing like it.

### **How can people watch *After the Fire*?**

You'll obtain a virtual "ticket" by paying whatever amount you feel comfortable, and that will give you a password to watch the YouTube premiere on Friday, January 22. Click on: <https://www.micds.org/after-the-fire/> for more information!!

Thank you, Mimi! Let's show our support and buy some tickets!