

Concept Statement

As Bees in Honey Drown by Douglas Carter Beane

Director: Kalaylah Chisolm

As Bees in Honey Drown is a satirically symbolic exposure of the facade of fame by personifying how it can be our sweetest destruction.

The character of Alexa Vere de Vere is a personification of fame and its destruction to a person's life and art.

Big Question: Can we feel an ownership to our art and have fame?

The playwright separates the play into two acts titled, "*Life*" and "*Art*". In these two acts, we see the break down of how yearning for the life of fame and success draws away from living a life of fulfillment for what you love to do.

Life

Some spend their entire life looking for this success that we tend to describe as fame. The yearning for this fame and/or big break can be the consumption of one's life. Evan never really thought he would have the lavish lifestyle of fame. Until, he's given the chance to feel this facade of fulfillment with Alexa. He states to Alexa in their first meeting, "no one ever tells you about that little breather period between critical success and financial success" (13). He gets the taste of the financial success he's been waiting for. He gets the fancy suit, stays and eats at the most exquisite places, and feel as if he's accomplished something big. We, as artists and people, have a tendency to want to be in this infamously perceived definition of success so much we become blinded by reality. This can take place in many forms such as, sleeping your way to the top, conning the youngest, hottest artist until they make their big break and remind them not to forget you so you have the ability to shine in the shadows, or even buying your way to fame. But, we eventually come to realize we are just nothing at the end of it all.

Art

Fame ultimately steals the life or even love for your art. As an artist, we realize that the art we make is either going to end up either being "criticized or capitalized" on when we start reach a level of fame that is over fantasied. At that point, we begin to lose the love we once had for our art and sometimes ourselves. It is no longer a sacred outlet for us, but now on display. This is the sad distraction of fame to an artist. We yearn for this feeling of "financial security" and "happiness" that we think fame and glamorous success will bring us, but it never truly ends up that way. We want to be like the "queen bee", fame itself however, when we try to please the "queen" so much to be in that gorgeous spotlight, we drown in our own honey. Then sadly being left with nothing, but our art.