Performance Presentation
Advancing Backwards: Directing and Discovering the Evolution of Film and Common Themes in Annie Baker’s “The Flick” and Reality
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For the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival, I was able to direct a scene from the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama play, “The Flick” by Annie Baker. The performance occurred in January 2016, and I took second place SDC Directing Award Competition at the event. Directing the scene required me to do conduct extensive research on the themes that the play provided, along with discovering ways on how they relate to society today. The research helped the performers in the showing and I realize how the play relates to events that are still relevant today.

The Flick is about a young African-American male, Avery, begins working at a movie theatre because of his love for film. He works at there with 35 year old, Sam, and 24 year old, Rose. As their friendship develops, the theatre goes up for sale, and the change in their relationship becomes obvious. The company purchasing the theatre wants to change the 35 millimeter film projectors with digital projectors, which Avery begins to express a disliking for.

The play points out how the change in projectors relates to the downfall change in society’s actions, and focuses on the realistic themes of old vs. new, racism, and the true meaning of friendship. With a deeper look at the characters and evaluation of scenes in the play, the discovery of how society has made a change for the worse becomes evident. The text and themes in the play also relates to situations in today’s society.