

Reflective response

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Generation P was conceived and written during a two-week workshop on playwriting conducted under the guidance of playwright Carlos Morton in May 2019. The inspiration for this piece was drawn from personal concerns regarding the everyday reality of the younger generation in contemporary Greece, which I envisioned slightly distorted and infused with dystopian nuances. More specifically, I was interested in capturing the gritty aspects of the nightlife of Thessaloniki and the way a dazzling night out can turn into a horrifying tragedy due to young adults' self-destructive habits, such as drug abuse. My starting point was to place the inciting incident, namely the death of the mysterious girl, at the very beginning of the play and build the entire plot and exposition of the characters through their response to this specific event. Thus, the repetition of the first scene in its full form in the end does not only solve the mystery, but also acquires a completely new meaning because it concerns characters the audience has grown familiar with. The characters I crafted are deeply flawed and hard to identify with, constantly switching between the conventional roles of the hero and the villain, making it difficult to trust them or even like them, but to me this is what makes them realistic. What connects them is that they all love but end up hurting the ones they love: the nonconformist protagonist who is stuck in a fatal love triangle, the overprotective mother who suffocates her daughter with her own pride and expectations and the betrayal in Anna and Bill's relationship that results in a vicious circle where violence begets violence. Ultimately, although my initial intention was to create a play that encapsulates the confusion and absurdity of the youth in contemporary Greece, I have come to realize that its core narrative of love and tragedy does not differ greatly from pieces of traditional drama that are ingrained in my memory, such as Aeschylus's *Agamemnon* or William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.