"The Play's the Thing"

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What exactly can theatre majors do for a thesis? was the question I continually asked myself during my first few years at the University of Utah. I'm an actor. What could I possibly explore? So I decided that I would take a rather unique approach to the project. My thesis was a challenge I set for myself to fully write and produce an original play based on my experiences as an actor, a theatre patron and an honors student, having had no prior playwriting experience. The process began four years ago after I saw an improvisation exercise in an acting class that inspired a story. However, the actual conceptualized and physical form of it only came about a year and a half ago when I was deciding what would be appropriate and of quality for my senior honors thesis. I wrote a one-act play titled "Hush, Little Mockingbird." It was chosen to be a part of the Department of Theatre's annual playwriting festival Experiments in Ink, where it was produced in early February. It was a 35-minute piece that was shown in conjunction with other original works. It played four times plus a well-attended special Sunday night honors performance with a feedback session following after Experiments in Ink had closed earlier that day.