Michael Sean McKowen

Paden City H.S. RAC Residency 2019-2020

**General Information**

*Name of Teaching Artist*

* Michael Sean McKowen

*School where Residency took place*

* Paden City High School
* Paden City, WV- Wetzel County

*Grade Levels Taught*

* 7th and 8th grade

*Dates & time period of Residency*

* September 2019- March 2020 (residency halted due to Covid-19 pandemic)

**Project Description**

*Project Name, if applicable*

* “The Ghost of Gamble’s Run”

*Project Description and Process*

*Methods/Mediums/Materials Used*

* A stage play based on a court case from 1851. The court document was adapted into a short story that appeared in an anthology of WV ghost stories titled “The Telltale Lilac Bush” by Ruth Ann Musick. The events of the court case occurred in Wetzel County WV near Paden City H.S.
* The project started with the court document and the adapted story. The students along with the theater, art, music, English instructors and myself improved and developed scenes based on the facts of the trial. The scenes were developed into a finished script. This first step in the project utilized creative visualization, performance improvisation, idea development and play writing. This is a specific example of the project’s goal to teach the students how to communicate, collaborate, utilize creative problem solving and abstract thought.
* Research, design and fabrication. The students, faculty and myself developed and produced scenery, costumes, lighting, sound and props based on period research and the needs of the play.
* Acting, musical performance and dance. The students learned acting techniques and performance as they rehearsed and evolved the script into a live performance. They also learned choreographed dancing and the ability to play period specific musical instruments.

*Describe Intended Final Project*

* A fully produced stage play that would be capable of easily touring.

*Describe Completed Final Project (Based on adjustments that had to made due to pandemic.)*

* Unable to complete project due to pandemic. We had stage more than half of the script and had completed the majority of costumes, scenery and props needed to stage the play.
* **Learning Goals and Objectives**
* *What learning goals and objectives were met by the project?*

Students learned collaboration, communication, creative visualization, creative problem solving and abstract thought. They also learned performance skills, play writing, carpentry skills and research methods.

* *Was there an overarching theme?*
* *What subjects/topics were integrated into the project?*

History, music, writing, 3-D object making and performance.

* *How did the project connect to non-arts curriculum standards and objectives?*

The use of local history to connect the students to the development of the project.