

Mr. Trace Swisher is one talented fellow. His *Final Girl* piece exams the plight of the ubiquitous “young girl” who is always the victim in the bloodiest horror movies. Trace chose to celebrate and glorify those girls by translating and stylizing all the blood and gore into beads, paint, and graphic patterns. The textures and the costume silhouettes suggest the deeper essence of these characters whose lives are cut short - turning them into goddesses that should be worshipped and celebrated. He created this piece when he was a student last semester (a part of the academic year) and therefore I assumed he would be eligible for the award. It is unfortunate because he is an outstanding artist, director and designer. As a double major in Graphic Design (BFA) and Theatre (BFA), he chose to produce a video and further extend the piece into photography. Trace utilized other students in the project and made a huge impression on them. The mentorship award would have been a celebratory cap for all his hard work and dedication.

Mary McClung

Director of Costuming

School of Theatre and Dance

WVU College of Creative Arts and Media