

My name is **Carlos Manuel Cadena** and I play the role of **Tanner**.

***What are the challenges to the actor that a staged reading presents?***

The biggest challenge I faced has got to be the lack of movement onstage. I've gotten used to moving around and allowing my character to interact with the space around me. If my character was feeling a certain level of extreme emotions, I'd use my body as one of the outlets to deliver that emotion. So, standing in one spot while delivering every line as genuinely as possible proved to be quite the challenge. However, it was a very fun challenge to undertake.

***The Maverick Theatre Company is dedicated to presenting socially relevant and timely material for our audiences. How does this production reflect those values?***

It reflects them by maintaining the gritty reality of the situation as authentically as possible. Even though this tale is a fictional one, these things *do* happen. This production brings up issues that have plagued society even before our parents had their own get-togethers. They can happen to the most ordinary of people, leaving them beaten and battered in what seems to be an unjust world. And if we wish to give our own children a better tomorrow, we *have* to not just talk about these issues but keep the conversation going.

***What is the most important thing that audiences should know about this production?***

Audiences should know that, although this is just a staged reading, this show is not going to be pulling any punches. It doesn't sugarcoat the confusion and misery a victim of sexual assault may feel. It is both normal, and expected, for an audience member to feel uncomfortable while witnessing this tale unfold, since the matter at hand is quite foul and

despicable in nature. Through the lens of optimism, I like to think that they feel uncomfortable because they are decent human beings who do not wish this to happen to anyone.

***What is the most important thing that you have learned from this production?***

This production taught me that people are the products of their own choices. No ordinary human being is born evil or a saint, but it is the choices that they make that shape who they are and who they want to be. Sometimes those choices may lead them towards a dark path, other times they may find themselves in that very same path through no fault of their own. But it is through their own willful choices that they may either sink deeper into darkness or push forward to become a better person.