

# ASSESSING THE ART OF DIRECTING AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

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### INTRODUCTION

On January 24<sup>th</sup> 2026, the students of SU VPA performed a student led production of Gian Carlo Menotti's Opera Amahl and the Night Visitors, in collaboration with the Setnor school of music and the Drama department. The main goal of this production was to give the SU students a student-led and catered to performance experience, include the students as reflective contributors to the directing process, and examine how we can improve this process in our main stage productions.

### ASSESSMENT METHODS

A directors journal served as the primary assessment artifact of the process documenting all artistic decisions contributed to the project, rehearsal strategies and adaptations, collaborative interactions, and three feedback surveys from 10 student performers.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

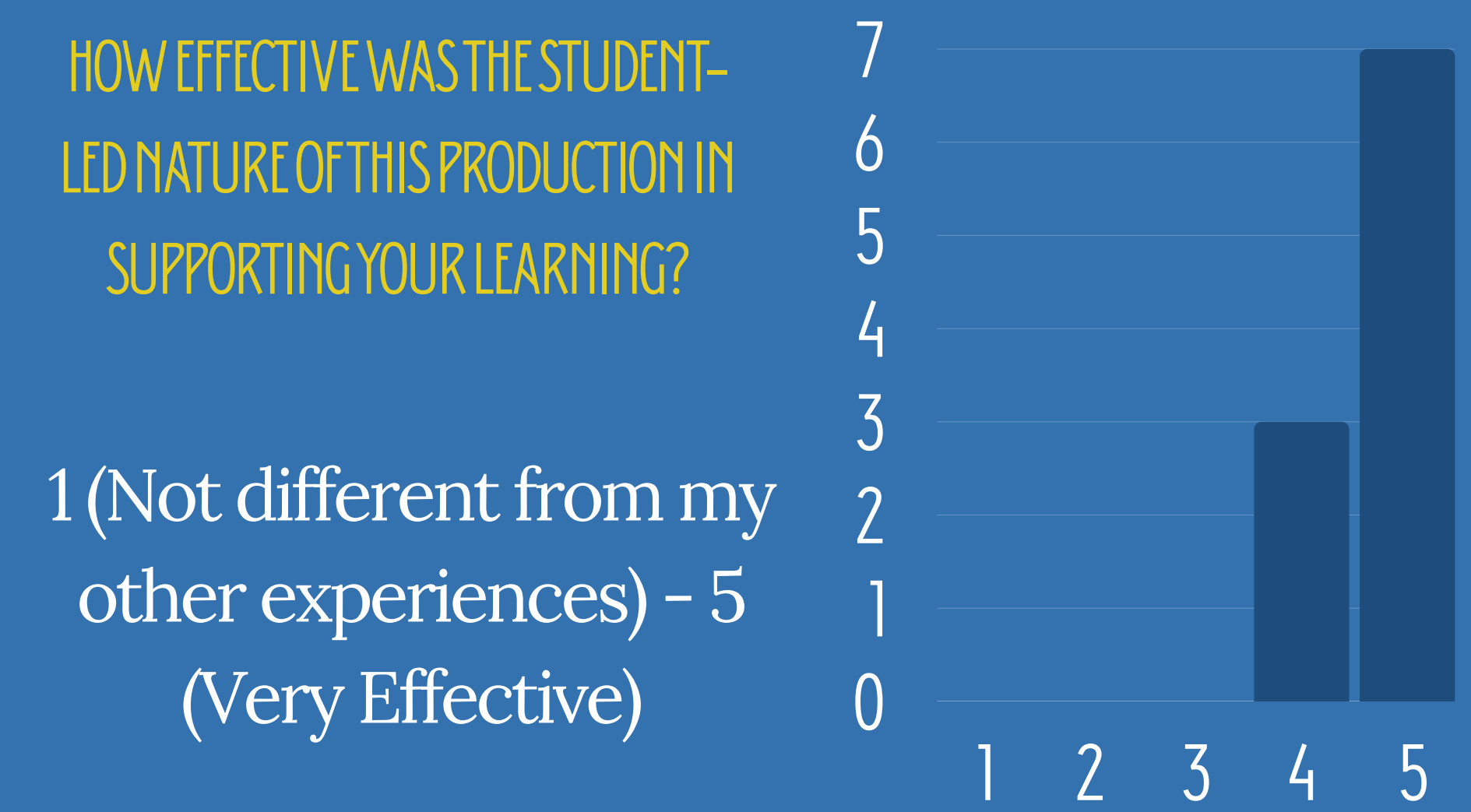
1. **Students will be able to know** the collaborative structure and rehearsal processes of a student-led opera production and the responsibilities of performers within a devised, reflective rehearsal environment
2. **Students will be able to (do)** engage in reflective practice through journaling and rehearsal feedback and demonstrate increased confidence in performance and ensemble contribution
3. **Students will be able to value** the connection between process and product in artistic work and reflective practice as part of artistic growth

### ACTION PLANS/NEXT STEPS

- Share findings with faculty and administration
- Expand the model to a larger-scale production
- Refine the student-led rehearsal framework
- Implement structured mid-process feedback checkpoints

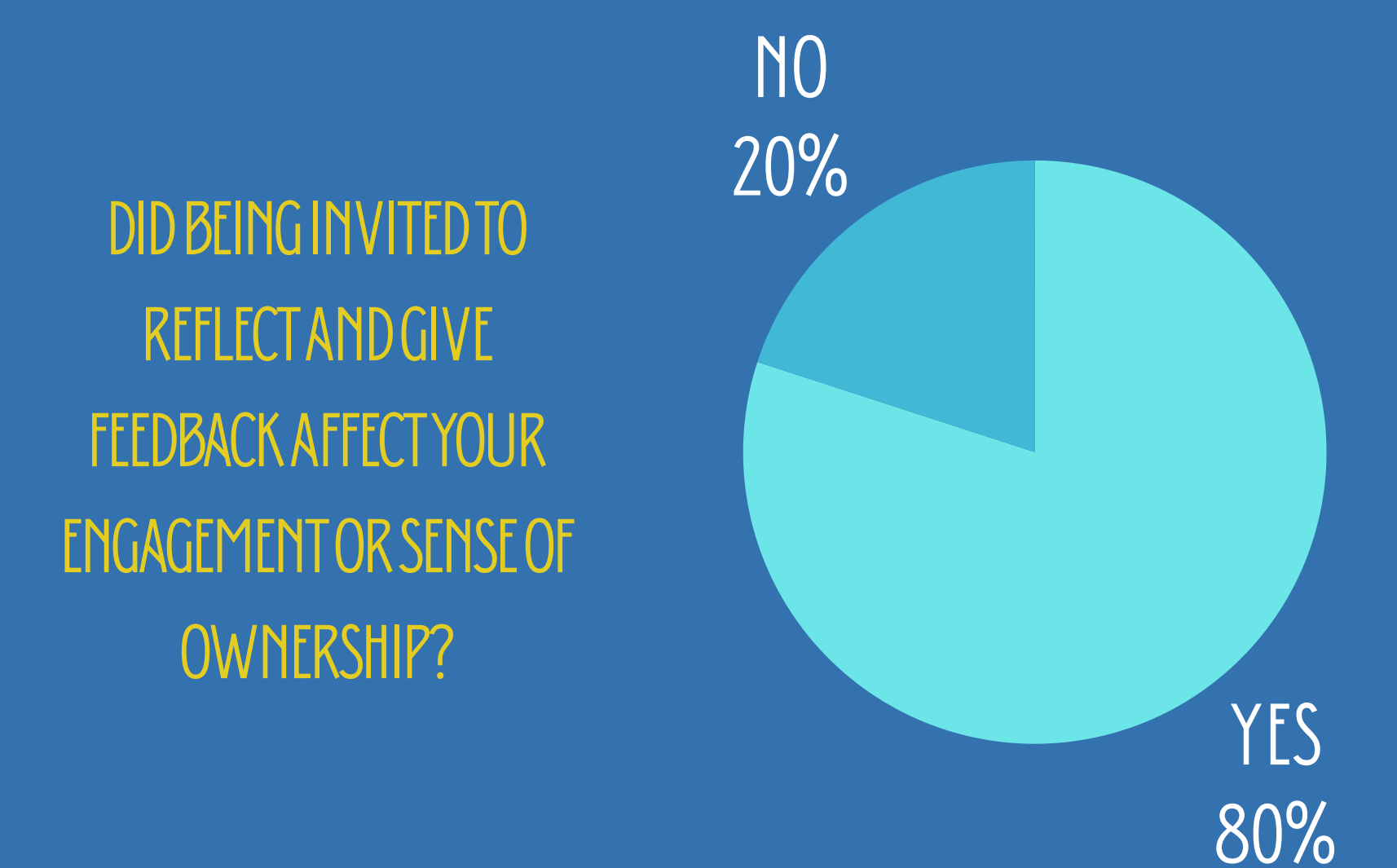
### FINDINGS/SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES

- High perceived effectiveness of student-led structure

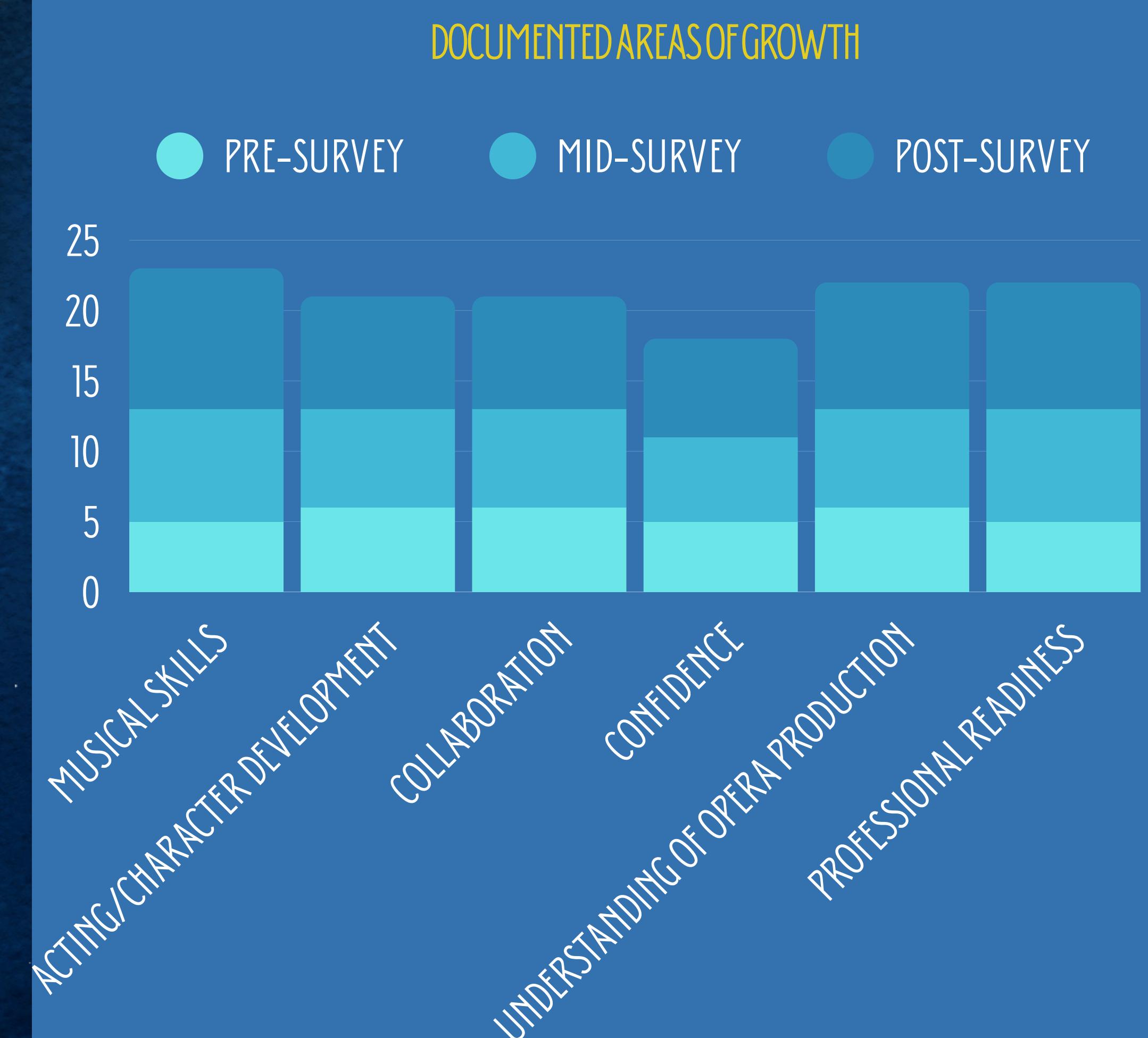


1 (Not different from my other experiences) - 5 (Very Effective)

- Increased confidence and ownership



- Structured reflection improved learning outcomes



### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

