

Director's Note

On-the-Rag Dolls uses comedy to interrogate how young girls are taught to understand their bodies, their futures, and their value. What drew me to this play is how boldly it takes on purity culture while letting the characters remain funny, curious, and deeply human. The humor is sharp, but it never punches down. Instead, it exposes how language, religion, and expectation can shape identity long before choice enters the picture.

My approach to directing this piece centers on contrast. The play lives in the tension between innocence and awareness, obedience and resistance. I work with the actors to treat the girls' beliefs as real and urgent, even when the dialogue is heightened or absurd. The stakes are always emotional, not ironic. By grounding the performances in sincerity, the comedy becomes a vehicle for something more unsettling and revealing.

I was drawn to this play for the way it reclaims conversations that are often treated as shameful or taboo. Menstruation, desire, and autonomy are framed here as sources of confusion but also possibility. The bedroom setting becomes a site of both indoctrination and discovery, where friendship allows the girls to test ideas, push back, and imagine alternatives together.