The Detroit Mercy Theatre Company’s Mock Theatre Project created student teams to create a production in a collaborative event, all while being mentored by professional guest artists. Over the course of 6 weeks, students worked within their teams to perform research and determine a cohesive design approach to the production. They were mentored through the process of creating written work, production paperwork, and final designs. Students have the opportunity to submit their final products to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

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The Department of Performing Arts trains students to develop their intellectual, ethical and practical skills for a creative future. Along with five core concepts, Detroit Mercy Theatre Company is the praxis for student education and training.

Notes from the Dramaturg
Compiled by Nina Carlson

The Imaginary Invalid, known then as Le Malade imaginaire, began laughing with the gullible and the woke on February 10, 1673 at Théâtre du Palais-Royal in Paris, France. Our famous playwright Moliere had a knack for poking and prodding at contemporary ideals which he found to be absurd. He was not a friend of science, and had a deep mistrust of doctors and medicine, as did most of the viewers in the time watching this scathing satire on the medical profession.

Ironically, this was Moliere’s last hoorah. Though Moliere himself often played the main character in his productions at Théâtre du Palais-Royal, on the fourth night of The Imaginary Invalid’s premiere, he collapsed on stage due to respiratory complications, ended the show, and died later that evening. At no surprise, no doctors came to his aid, though he was reported to have refused them anyway. Medical science may have come a long way since 1673, but so has the quackery that Moliere so deliciously satirized in The Imaginary Invalid.

2052. New Orleans, Louisiana. We are living in a futuristic world that is incredibly diverse. Class divide is more prevalent than ever, medicine is scarce, and the deep distrust in contemporary ideals leaves us laughing at the sheer absurdity. We live in an afro-steam-punk fashion, and the famous culture of New Orleans as the land of the mysterious, voodoo, and music is very true to the story.

The hypochondriac Argan wants his daughter to marry a doctor so he can save on his medical bills. But she’s in love with someone else. Soon, the whole household joins in her maidservant’s madcap scheme to save true love and give Argan’s doctors a dose of their own medicine.