

## Bryan Beneker's Director Commentary for *A 10 Minute Melodrama* (2006)

*A 10 Minute Melodrama* is an attempted adaptation to an original play written by Ryan Soberg of Viterbo University. The movie was co-directed by Meredith Gifford and myself. I also edited the movie together. The movie features Charlie Gillette as David, Ryan Radio as Andre, Laura Savage as Sandra, and Emily Therrien as Maria.

An obstacle of producing this short movie was adapting from the play version of the storyline while trying to keep its melodrama characteristics. In simpler terms, the problem was trying to make the shots seem more movie-like rather than having it look like the play is being performed with camera men on stage shooting the play while it's in progress. In order to try and adapt the play into a movie, I tried to use the influence of soap operas in my shot selections. The idea behind this was to make the play seem like it was made more for TV or the big screen rather than for the stage by infusing it with a style that people are already familiar with in soap operas. This was also meant to help preserve the melodrama genre. In theory it seemed like a good fit for the movie and so Meredith and I directed *A 10 Minute Melodrama* in soap opera fashion.

Another obstacle in producing the movie was the unrealistic time frame in which it was shot. We had a total of two weeks to go through all the phases of producing a movie; pre-production (planning the shots, getting the cast together rehearsing, getting the correct props), production (actually shooting the movie), and post production (editing it all together). I felt like I was blessed with a great co-director in Meredith Gifford and a great cast. We were very organized and we maximized our time on the movie as much as we could, but still only got about six to seven hours to shoot the movie and because of this, I don't think we were able to maximize the possibilities of *A 10 Minute Melodrama*.