

The adventure stage



Humberto Salgueiro as Pietro in the play "The Shadow".

Picture: Mariana Bridi

In a world where cultural and geographic boundaries are becoming smaller for ambitious young people, the story of 20-year-old Humberto Stanoga Salgueiro stands out as an inspiring example of courage, passion, and determination. Originally from Brazil, Humberto embarked on a transformative journey by choosing the United States as his academic and theatrical exchange destination. In Alvernia since August, with a 6-month exchange, he ends this experience with many adventures, challenges, and a play performed with the university's theater group, entirely in English.

Humberto's story is full of courage and overcoming to get what he wants. He says the choice to go on exchange to the United States came from the desire to improve himself as

an artist. "Often in Brazil, art is not highly valued but is highly sought after. For that reason, I aim for different experiences, like the international one I'm having here", Humberto says.

Since Humberto landed in America, each day has been a journey of discovery and adaptation. The city, the people, the customs, everything was new and exciting. Humberto fondly remembers the early days, facing the challenge of communicating in English daily and understanding the cultural nuances that differ from his country. "Adapting to the new culture and education system has challenges, especially with the intense workload. Some things are very different from what I'm used to in Brazil, but it makes me happy to have contact and learn how theater works here. I'm going back with this different experience", Humberto says.

However, over time, he overcame language barriers and studied and immersed himself in the culture of the United States. This new educational approach challenged his skills and opened doors to a deeper, more globalized understanding of his passion for theater. "Academically, I could review all the content I had already seen, but now in another language. I had the privilege of using and bringing my work from Brazil here to delve even deeper into what I had already studied there. In addition to having the opportunity to act for the first time in English, I had the experience of experiencing American theater, and this helped me a lot", Humberto finishes.

The autumn play that Humberto was part of is called "The Shadow". Held over two weekends, it tells the story of a Scholar who goes to a small country where fairy tales exist and loses his shadow. The play lasts two and a half hours and has several twists, drama, and comedy.

With a starring role in "The Shadow," Humberto shares that achieving it was initially challenging for him. "Students interested in being part of the Alvernia Theater had to audition, which was already challenging for me, as I had to do a monologue entirely in English in mine." Putting all his previous experiences into practice, Humberto got a role that he is very proud of. "Pietro, my character, is a very grumpy ogre who loves to shoot people when angry. His biggest challenge is his voice. He always screams and has a scratchy voice and a fry vocal register." He says with great happiness that he managed to put some of his Brazilian background into the character. "Pietro is a character that I was able to create, and I put on a very physical theater in the same way we do in Brazil into him, voice, physical body elements, and essence of my culture. It was a unique experience", Humberto says.

Throughout rehearsals and presentations of the play, Humberto witnessed challenges and moments that would become milestones in his personal and theatrical journey. "Personally, the impact is very profound. This whole experience affected me in a very positive way. Learning from scratch in a new country, without family presence, stimulates personal growth. Initial loneliness gave way to a deeper understanding of my own. All my studying here made me have to read many books and plays, so my vocabulary improved a lot", Humberto shares.

On the professional front, for Humberto, this exchange and theater experience enriches his CV and expands his artistic and academic repertoire. "Performing in an

international environment provides a unique and valuable perspective for my career in theater. This experience made me realize I like showing my culture and how we make art in Brazil. I would like to return to the US to work and better understand how the entertainment industry works here. Still, I am interested in doing projects and working in projects that show this form of art in my country", Humberto concludes.

Humberto's path, from the decision to have an academic experience in another country to the challenges of facing a play in English for the first time, is a courageous narrative that goes beyond linguistic and cultural borders. The memorable moments and achievements throughout the process reflect not only his theatrical ability but also his ability to transform challenges into learning opportunities. Humberto indeed not only conquered the stage but also transcended cultural and personal barriers.