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# The [Radio] Play's the Thing Direction and Production of The Shakespearean Baseball Game: A Comedy of Errors, Hits and Runs

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# The [Radio] Play's the Thing

**Direction and Production of  
*The Shakespearean Baseball Game:  
A Comedy of Errors, Hits and Runs***

Michael K. Girts

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in Television/Radio/Film with Honors

**Also earning a B.F.A. in Acting**

May/2005

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## **Abstract**

Directing and producing *The Shakespearean Baseball Game* was a perfect capstone project for my Syracuse University career. I have the proud distinction of being the only student at SU to graduate with both a B.S. in Television/Radio/Film and a B.F.A. in Acting. My goal was to invest my time and energy into a thesis that would utilize my expertise in both areas. Directing and producing this drama has been just that project.

I've learned about drama as a visual and aural medium. In radio drama, however, the director must paint the picture – must tell a story – with sound alone. My drama training did not wholly prepare me for this venture, but my radio training helped me to compensate. As talk show director at WAER, I favored pre-packaged pieces that (a) told a clear story and (b) contained musical elements to keep the listener attentive and entertained. Those pieces were factual, not fictional. I was eager to experience the creative freedom of producing an entirely fictional radio feature.

*The Shakespearean Baseball Game* was a joyful process. It tells the story of a baseball game in Shakespearean verse. The humor lies primarily in the parodied lines from Shakespeare's classics. I conceptualized the piece as a mixture of the realistic and the presentational. I wanted the piece to sound as if it were taking place at a real life baseball game. I thought it needed real sounds that people would recognize, so my listeners – without the aid of seeing the action – could go on this journey with my actors. Still, I needed to create a fictional, romanticized, silly world where baseball managers, players and umpires would speak in rhyming verse. I felt my piece needed to embrace the naturalistic *and* the abstract. I think I found an appropriate balance.

The first step was to record the monologues, dialogues, singing, accompaniment, and sound effects. The second step was to edit it all together. The piece aired April 23, 2005 on WAER. I am proud of it.

There is a special connection between my Television/Radio/Film training and my Acting training: both have taught me to be a story-teller. For my thesis project, I've chosen to tell the story of *The Shakespearean Baseball Game*. I hope my listeners enjoy.

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