

2:51 p.m.

2:52 p.m.

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As the clock moved closer to 3 p.m., senior Brooke Atkins frantically paced back and forth in room 208. She was holding auditions for her Frequent Friday. Her head was all over the place — a mental checklist was the only way to organize her thoughts.

*Do I have the notes that I need to take? Check.*

*Their scripts? Check.*

*Their headshots? Check.*

Frequent Fridays were 30-minute shows that seniors in the Advanced Repertory class directed and cast the underclassmen in.

Atkins was almost as nervous as she was when she auditioned for her first Frequent Friday as a freshman. Freshman year she had auditioned for three different Frequent Fridays but didn't get cast in any of them. After her rejections, she decided to try out for one more — *The Great Gatsby*. Finally — she made it.

Since then, Atkins developed a love for Frequent Fridays. Not just because she acted in them but because she got to work behind the scenes and create one herself.

Atkins' junior year, she had to plan her very own Frequent Friday to put on her senior year. She went through a list of plays and one stood out to her — "The Girl in the Mirror."

"I read through it and was crying at the end of it," Atkins said. "The show was so good. I was like, 'I have to do it, this is the one.'"

After she made tweaks and edits on the script the rest of junior year and throughout the summer, Atkins knew exactly what she was looking for during her auditions — people who could cry on command and had their lines memorized.

"That feeling of being overwhelmed didn't really leave me until they actually started reading the scripts," Atkins said. "And then I could actually see my vision coming to life."

She held rehearsals every day after school to help her cast feel as confident as they could to perform their play. The auditions for her play went smoothly.

Frequent Fridays had different aspects to them and Atkins had seen them all — whether that was acting in one and being ordered around, or watching upperclassmen do them throughout the years.

This year it was her turn.

Her turn to choose one.

Her turn to direct and block them.

Her turn to be in charge.