June 2018

Gentlemen,

Welcome to Modern Drama! I’m really looking forward to tracing the arc of modern and contemporary drama with you in the fall, but it’s a long time until then.

In the meantime, please purchase and carefully read a physical copy of M.L. Rio’s *If We Were Villains*. It is, in many ways, the perfect summer read, marrying the exhilarating page-turn-ability of the psychological thriller with the satisfying near-melodrama of the theater conservatory where it’s set, and the writing’s not half bad. It will offer you a theater-centric narrative, and I think you’ll have fun with it.

I have one final requirement of you: See theater. Any theater. I don’t care if you see a full-scale Broadway production or your local community center’s staging of … well, literally anything. Don’t even worry too much about quality, as sometimes bad drama is just as thought-provoking as good - just get in the room where the drama is taking place.

What distinguishes theater is its immediacy. You experience it in a particular place, at a particular time, and with a particular group of people, and then it’s gone, and that performance will never happen again. However, despite its impermanence, the mark theater leaves on us is indelible (even if that mark is in the form of disappointment or boredom) because we witnessed it; we lived it.

A tip for you: If you’re not already, consider becoming a member of the Theater Development Fund (tdf.org). As a full-time student, you qualify for their discounted tickets - take advantage of that!

So get to the theater, gents, read good books, and I’ll see you in September!

Best,

Ms. Vonnegut

PS - if you have any questions between now and then, or just want to introduce yourself, feel free to email me at lvonnegut@browning.edu.