An actor's production book for Henrik Ibsen's A doll house: [an honors thesis (HONRS 499)]
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Abstract:
For my Honors 499 Creative Project, I prepared and performed the role of Nora Helmer, in Michael O'Hara and Rodger W. Smith's new translation of Henrik Ibsen's classic humanist drama, A Doll House. My preparation includes research about Ibsen, other actresses who have attempted this challenging role, and the multitude of concepts surrounding this famous character. As part of my process, I utilized an acting technique outlined in The Practical Handbook for the Actor, a text inspired by the teachings of David Mamet and William H. Macy. My research compounded with rehearsals, the stage performance in September and the filming in October, served for three hours credit in Honors 499. Research on the role of Nora has been conducted since Betty Hennings, in Copenhagen, originally played the part in 1879. Various productions and theories have emerged, and I attempted to incorporate many of these theories into my Nora. Our updated version of the play took place in 1998, so I also carefully studied women of today to effectively bring Nora from the nineteenth to the twentieth century. The technique I used in deciphering this role is one of goals, objectives, tactics, and expectations. I broke down every scene into literal and essential actions. For every essential action, I scored the script according to beat changes and tactics. The final challenge was to incorporate these into my performance on stage and on film.