

SMSU had already chosen their 2013-2014 season, and I was hired to direct *Dead Man's Cell Phone* halfway through the rehearsal period of my production of the same show at my home university. The discoveries I made between the two productions led me to an interesting new execution of the same script. It was quite an adventure!

"When something rings you have to answer it. Don't you?"  
– *Dead Man's Cell Phone*

First produced in 2006 – the year before the iPhone changed communication forever – *Dead Man's Cell Phone* is sort of a fairy tale for a world that never stops ringing. Once upon a time, a seemingly ordinary woman sits in a café – just like any one of us might on any given day. But when she answers the ringing phone beside her, she takes a tumble down the rabbit hole into a world that absolutely refuses to meet her expectations. Scrambling to make sense of the wild patchwork of characters and events swirling around her, she bumps up against question after question: Is technology bringing us closer together or pushing us farther apart? How do we really get to know another person? How can we tell what is true? What is good? What is right? Is there an app for that? But even with all these questions, I'm not sure there ends up being a moral to this story – but maybe that's the moral. Maybe there is no one way to live happily ever after. Maybe if we're happy it doesn't matter how we got there. And maybe we could all use a little visit to Wonderland after all.