

Intro to Theatre Cheat Sheet

by Varda via cheatography.com/165279/cs/34804/

Definitions

Drama - communication of an Idea, thought, or emotion through the use of role.

Theatre - One or more actors are performing for an audience in a shared space.

Role - about a person

Actor - Portrays a role through mimesis
Dithyramb - a type of choral speaking
Catharsis - purgation of strong emotions
Comedy - poking fun at flaws or whims
Tragedies - protagonists of a high rank that
fall due to a tragic flaw or error Hamartia
Purpose of theatre

- Subjective and shared experience
- Entertainment
- Social activity
- Empathy

Stages:

Thrust

Arena

Presinium Arch

Black box

Blocking - where actors move on stage, getting the shape of the Play

Aristotelian Elements of Tragedy

Plot - Things that happen

- what is the action of the play
- what happened to get us to that point

Character - Qualities

Thought - Theme or idea

- the lesson of the play

Diction - Language of the play

- Poetry, Formal, rhythms and tempo

Musical/ Rythm - Pacing, events sequenced

Spectacle - lights, costumes, design

Protagonist - the Prime Mover (hero)

Antagonist - the Force for Status Quo

Chorus - not active participant - voices the

fears of the audience
- voice of the playwrite to engage with the

audience

Old Comedy to New Comedy - Shift from democracy to dictatorship

O.C - political

N.C - domestic, mythical, no supernatural, everyday life

Roles

Role of the Audience

- Engage in the willing suspension of Disbelief
- To believe in the secondary reality Role of Empathy

Aesthetic Distance

- -defines our reality from the reality of the play
- audience participation or jarring

breakaways

Communal Activity

Playwrights

- someone who crafts a play
- creates conflict through the plot, thought, character, genre

Director

- unity and production of the persons involved
- Collaborates with designers
- interpretation, rhythm and tempo

Traditional, Auteur Director

Actors

-mimesis, inner and outer skills

Representational - Realistic and natural portray

Presentational - portraying the story through movement

Designers

- costume, light, sound etc.

Choreographers - movement



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Dramatic Structure and Conflict

Dramatic Structure

Exposition - Background

Insighting Incident - Makes plot happen

Rising action - resolve the insighting

incident

Climax - ultimet event

Denouement - Falling action - new sense of

normal

Centers on Conflict

Can have a late "point of attack"

Episodic Structure - like a tv show

Centered on a theme or character

Dramatic Conflict

PvP, Pv supernatural, Pv Nature, Pv Fate,

Pv Technology, Pv Self

Deeper look at Acting

Text Analysis Approach

- -acting being more representational
- Supertask/Super Objective Character wants in play
- 2. Bit or Beats play components
- 3. Task or Intention needs of the character
- 4. Actions or Tactics to fulfil the needs Helps the actor understand the world of the play

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Roman Theatre

Actors no longer a respectable profession

Theatre - not a civic duty

- entertainment rather than morality

Roman Tragedy - Dark and violent - closet plays?

Plautus - First playwrite

Terrence - higher level of style - first of colour

New Comedy

- like a sitcom

Sanskrit Theatre

Theatre of Ancient India

Natyasastra attributed to Bharata Muni

Performed in classical Sanskrit and

Common dialect of Prakrit

Categorized by mood (Rasas) rather than

Genre

Romance, laughter, fury, compassion,

disgust, horror, heroism, wonder, peace

(added later)

Episodic style - concepts and themes

Specific movements and facial expressions

Medieval

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