

# Drama 30

## Theatre History Project

### A. The Process:

- i) Think about your **personal goals** for this class:
  - what do you really want to accomplish
  - how can you improve your skills and challenge yourself
- ii) Your “Theatre History Project” may be done individually or with a group. You may choose to work with others only if it is relevant to the topic. For example: each person is responsible for a specific area of study and yet the presentation is done as a group.
- iii) You (or the group) must make a proposal to the teacher: 1) outlining the project 2) a timeline and 3) the expected outcomes (which will be the basis for your evaluation). Each person must hand in their own proposal for their own area of study.
- iv) The process will be monitored and evaluated daily (for example: attendance, daily effort, responsibility for own work, initiative, staying on task without prompting from me.)
- v) The teacher’s role is as facilitator and guide; to offer advice, instruction and critical feedback as required. As on any independent project, you must be careful to keep yourself on task.
- vi) Suggested time is 10 classes to complete the project. You will likely need to complete some of the work outside of class time.

## **B. Possible Topics**

### **1. Select from a era:**

#### Ancient and Classical Theatre

- Greek
- Roman
- Choral Speaking, Chants
- Ritual
- Masks
- Dionysus
- Acropolis, Ancient Theatres
- Egyptian
- African
- Asian
- Mythology

#### Middle Ages and Renaissance

- Commedia del Arte
- Travelling Troupes
- Morality plays, Satires
- Costumes
- Puppets

#### Elizabethan

- Shakespeare
- Marlowe
- Jonson
- Globe Theatre

#### 18th Century & 19th Century

- Victorian
- Edwardian
- Restoration Theatre
- Drawing Room drama
- Neo-Classical
- Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw
- Upper Class Issues

#### Modern and Contemporary

- Irish Theatre - Synge, Behan, Joyce
- Abbey Theatre - W.B. Yeats

Realism - Ibsen, Chekov, Strindberg  
Political - Brecht, Arthur Miller  
Absurd - Beckett, Ionesco, Havel  
Theatre of the Oppressed - Boal  
Modern - Pinter, Albee  
American Theatre - Tennessee Williams, Sheppard, O'Neill  
Living Theatre - McClure  
Theatre of Revolt  
Avant Garde - Wooster, Robert LePage  
Multi Media - Laurie Anderson, Spalding Gray  
Clown - Mump & Smoot  
Collectives - Passe Mureille, Paper Wheat  
National, Regional Theatre  
Puppet, Marionette  
Musicals, Broadway

## World Theatre

Kno Theatre  
Indonesian Shadow Puppets  
Africa  
China "Beijing Opera"  
India  
Brazil "Theatre of the Oppressed"

## 2. Choose a project for the era:

\* perform a scene (or monologue) from a specific play; include script analysis showing "objectives" and "beats".

\* create a maquette for the set for a specific play; explain the reasons for choice of colour, texture, placement; is it realistic, minimal or symbolic; possibly build or paint a set piece.

\* direct a video as a movie trailer for a specific play; capture highlights from various scenes, build interest in the plot, create an effect.

\* film a documentary on the era.

\* mix two era's to create a new scene

- \* design costumes for a specific play; create one costume piece; recreate a period piece.
- \* build a prop piece for a specific play (or a set of connected props); research the proper material to be most effective.
- \* create a music composition for a specific play; if possible, play or record the music; explain the significance of the music.
- \* create a lighting plan for a specific play; explain choice of colour, placement and effect. If possible, show the lights on a stage - or, if not available, draw the plan cue by cue.
- \* create makeup (possibly hair and clothing), for a specific character; design on paper first, then create it on a model; explain choices for colour, textures, etc.
- \* draw a story board for a play; create each scene in a drawn (cartoon) panel - you can use stick figures with written detail if drawing is not a strength.
- \* design a web site.
- \* film or stage a talk show with famous people from theatre as guests.
- \* write a research paper.
- \* write and illustrate a children's book on theatre history.
- \* create a puppet show.
- \* create a model of the Globe theatre or the Acropolis.
- \* design and create masks for a specific play.

### **C. On-line theatre history resources:**

#### 1) Theatre History on the Web

[www.videoccasions-nw.com/history/jack.html](http://www.videoccasions-nw.com/history/jack.html)

#### 2) Theatre History Sites on WWW

[www.win.net/~kudzu/history.html](http://www.win.net/~kudzu/history.html)

### **D. The Outline**

1) Summary notes: if working in a group, each member must submit their own outline and summary notes

2) Describe the project in detail:

3) Describe the role (duties & responsibilities) of each person involved:

4) What are expected outcomes?: performance, display, video, demonstration, costume, set, etc.

5) How will it be presented?

6) Attach drawings, designs, images, scripts as needed for marking.

### **E. Timeline**

Create a timeline to indicate work expected for class and homework. One extra class will be given for brainstorming, and topic selection.

### **F. Summary Notes**

Keep point form notes on your topic and ideas that come to you as you complete your research. Number each point as you need a minimum of 50 points. Attach pages as needed.