

Correction of American Theater or Drama at its origins 2021-2022

Answers to Questions

1) *Definitions :*

1. **Stock character :** A stock character is a fictional character who represents a specific stereotype or type of person, often used in literature or drama for the purpose of creating a predictable and recognizable plot or situation. Examples of stock characters include the « damsel in distress, » the « wise old mentor, » and the « jester. »
2. **Villain :** A villain is a character in a story who represents evil, immorality, or malicious intent. The villain is often portrayed as an antagonist who opposes the protagonist and creates conflict and tension in the story. Villains are often depicted as having a lack of empathy or concern for others, and may engage in harmful or destructive behavior to achieve their goals.
3. **Melodrama :** Melodrama is a genre of drama characterized by exaggerated emotions, stereotypical characters, and often predictable plots. Melodramas typically feature a hero or heroine who is threatened by a villain, and may include elements of romance, suspense, and sentimentality. Melodramas often use music and other theatrical effects to heighten emotions and create a sense of dramatic tension.
4. **Tragedy :** Tragedy is a genre of drama characterized by a serious and often somber tone, with a plot that typically involves a protagonist who experiences great suffering or downfall. Tragedies often explore themes of human weakness, fate, and the consequences of moral choices. Unlike melodramas, tragedies do not typically rely on exaggerated emotions or stereotypical characters, but rather on complex and nuanced depictions of human experience.

2) *What is exposition in a typical dramatic structure ?*

Exposition is the part of a typical dramatic structure where the audience is introduced to the setting, characters, and basic situation of the story. It typically occurs at the beginning of a play, film, or other work of fiction, and is used to provide necessary background information to help the audience understand the story.

During the exposition, the audience is introduced to the main characters and their relationships, as well as the setting and any relevant historical or cultural background information. The exposition may also introduce the central conflict or problem that the characters will face over the course of the story.

Exposition is an important part of dramatic structure, as it sets the stage for the action to come and helps the audience become emotionally invested in the story and the characters. Without a clear and effective exposition, the audience may become confused or disengaged from the story, making it difficult for the drama to have the desired impact.

3) *The name of an actor whose acting was characterized by muscular strength and Great vocal power, and who was perhaps the first to popularize the virile outdoor image Cultivated by many American actors ever since :*

One **actor** who fits this description is **Edwin Forrest (1806-1872)**. He was known for his powerful physical presence on stage and his ability to project his voice to the back of the theater, which made him one of the most popular actors of his time. He often played heroic roles, particularly those of Shakespearean characters like Macbeth and King Lear.

4) *Two kinds of opposition to the development of early American drama ?*

Two kinds of opposition to the development of early American drama were **religious** and **cultural oppositions**.

Religious opposition was mainly from the Puritans who considered the theater to be sinful and corrupting. They believed that the theater was a place of vice and immorality that promoted gambling, drinking, and prostitution. As a result, the Puritans tried to suppress theater performances, and even passed laws that prohibited them.

Cultural opposition, on the other hand, was due to the fact that early American drama was heavily influenced by European theater traditions. Some Americans felt that the theater was not suited to the American way of life, and that it was too foreign and elitist. Others felt that theater was too frivolous and lacked any real cultural or social significance. This cultural opposition made it difficult for American drama to gain a foothold and establish itself as a legitimate art form in the early years.

Discuss about topics

Read the plot summaries of both plays in your courses and then, discuss about the themes within them on your own. It will help you understand and allow you to give your words upon any subject.

By E-learning. Contact : +228 79-83-62-19