

A dictionary of theatre anthropology the secret art of the performer

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Theatre Anthropology: Exploring the Culture of Performance**

Theatre anthropology is a subfield of anthropology that examines the cultural practices and meanings associated with theatre and performance. It explores how theatre reflects and shapes social norms, values, and beliefs.

Pre-expressivity:

Pre-expressivity refers to the stage in which ideas and emotions are still unformed and unarticulated. It precedes expressivity, which is the process of giving form to these inner states.

Anthropology of the Performing Arts:

The anthropology of the performing arts focuses on the cultural, social, and cognitive aspects of performance. It examines the relationships between performances and the communities that create and experience them.

Four Aspects of Theatre:

Theatre involves four primary aspects:

- **Text:** The written or spoken words that form the basis of the performance.
- **Performance:** The physical and vocal expressions that bring the text to life.
- **Audience:** The group of people who witness and interpret the performance.

- **Context:** The cultural, social, and historical setting in which the performance takes place.

Concept of Expressivity:

Expressivity refers to the capacity of art, including theatre, to communicate ideas and emotions through formal and symbolic means. It is the ability to convey inner states through external form.

Expressivity vs. Penetrance:

Expressivity is distinct from penetrance, which refers to the ability of an artwork to influence its audience. While expressivity focuses on the artist's communication, penetrance encompasses the audience's reception and interpretation.

Expressivity vs. Instrumentality:

Expressivity is often contrasted with instrumentality, which refers to the practical or functional aspects of art. While expressivity prioritizes aesthetic expression, instrumentality emphasizes the purpose or utility of the artwork.

Four Performing Arts:

The four main performing arts are:

- Theatre
- Dance
- Music
- Circus

Anthropology's Definition of Art:

Anthropology defines art as a system of symbols and practices that express cultural values, beliefs, and identities. It is a form of communication that allows humans to explore and share their experiences.

Three Main Types of Performing Arts:

The three main types of performing arts are: _____

A DICTIONARY OF THEATRE ANTHROPOLOGY THE SECRET ART OF THE PERFORMER

- **Theatre:** A live performance that uses text, performance, and audience engagement.
- **Dance:** A sequence of rhythmic and coordinated body movements that express emotions and ideas.
- **Music:** An organized combination of sounds that creates a musical experience.

Four C's in Theatre:

The four C's in theatre are:

- **Character:** The individuals who are depicted in the performance.
- **Conflict:** The obstacles and challenges that drive the plot.
- **Climax:** The turning point or moment of greatest tension.
- **Catharsis:** The release of emotions through the performance.

Thirteen Elements of Theatre:

The thirteen elements of theatre are:

- **Actor:** The performer who brings the character to life.
- **Text:** The spoken or written words that form the basis of the performance.
- **Director:** The person who oversees the production and interpretation of the performance.
- **Designer:** The person who creates the visual and sound environments of the performance.
- **Technician:** The person who operates the technical equipment and supports the performance.
- **Music:** The sounds that accompany and enhance the performance.
- **Costume:** The clothing and accessories worn by the actors.
- **Make-up:** The cosmetics and effects used to transform the actors' appearances.
- **Props:** The objects and items used in the performance.

- **Lighting:** The illumination that creates the visual atmosphere of the performance.
- **Sound:** The sounds and effects that accompany the performance.
- **Audience:** The group of people who witness and interpret the performance.
- **Venue:** The space where the performance takes place.

Nine Elements of Theatre:

The nine elements of theatre, as defined by Konstantin Stanislavski, are:

- **Goal:** The objective or purpose of the character's actions.
- **Obstacle:** The obstacles that prevent the character from achieving their goal.
- **Tactic:** The actions the character takes to overcome the obstacles.
- **Emotion:** The feelings experienced by the character.
- **Relationship:** The connections and interactions between characters.
- **Concentration:** The actor's ability to focus and maintain attention throughout the performance.
- **Imagination:** The actor's ability to create and access inner worlds.
- **Given Circumstances:** The backstory and context that inform the character's actions.
- **Superscore:** The overall theme or message of the performance.

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