

JUNIOR THEATRE MAJORS **PERFORMANCE CRITIQUE** updated 3/2016

Students will collaborate as a group to create and present an oral critique of a recent local performance. Each student must speak as part of the presentation. The total time for the presentation and questions is one hour; the presentation should be 30-40 minutes, which allows time for discussion afterwards with faculty.

The Event

- Theatre name
- Title of Work (s) and Author, Date written
- Director/Choreographer/Musical Director
- Designers: Lighting, Costume, Scenery, Wigs, Makeup, Sound
- Date and Circumstances of Attendance
- Cost of Ticket/Location in the House

Preparation

- Pre-performance knowledge of the work
- Other works by this Author, Director, Choreographer, Theatre Company
- What kind of publicity was there about the event?

Description

Be able to describe what you saw to someone who was not at the event and has never been to an event before. Be as specific as possible; be able to explain the setting, plot design, sounds and/or music, lights, colors, concept, performance choices, styles and other elements as appropriate to the play. For help in your description, please see the attached page of possible considerations. Be able to discuss the performances by the performers using the name of the actor and role that they performed.

Analysis and Interpretation

You should determine what style of theatre you were attending-was it Realism, Expressionism, etc.? What was the event attempting to say to you as an audience member? Was there a message, or was it pure entertainment? Was there a theme, symbolism, metaphor?

Opinion

How did this performance strike you as a whole? What were its strengths and weaknesses? Did you feel lost and unable to explain what the event was attempting to say or teach you? If this is the case, was the problem in the event, the director, the performers, or your lack of interest or knowledge? Which performers were especially successful in their roles, and why? Which, if any, were unsuccessful, and why? It might also help to find other opinions of this performance in the press. Reviews can help you support your opinions of the event. Would you suggest that others see this event, and would you want to see it again?

Considerations for Discussing Theatre

Performance Spaces

Proscenium Theatre
Thrust Theatre
Arena Theatre
Found Space/Other
Black Box Theatre

Production Environments & Scenic Styles

Painted Backdrops/Fly/Drops
Scrim
Sculptural Environment/Symbolism
Box Sets
Unit Sets
Partial Architectural Details
Revolving Stage
Elevator Stage
Curtains/Borders/Legs
Platform Stage
Fragmented Scenery – Realistic Items/Fragmented World
Industrial Landscape-Scaffolding/Support Items
Ladders and Rolling Stair Units
Collage

Costume Styles

Period/Historical
Built/Created
Shopped Clothing
Pulled
Rented
Contemporary Dress

Lighting/Special Effects

Scrim Wash
Follow Spots
Pin Spots
Fog/Smog/Smoke/Snow/Rain/Explosion/Fire
Slide Presentations
Video Presentations

Directing

Concept
Blocking
Stage Business
Mise en scene
Point of view
Conflict
Physical Score
Rhythm
Tempo
Mood
Tone

Dramaturgy

Crisis
Climax
Inciting incident
Denouement/resolution
Arc of action
Dynamic event
Probability
Comedy
Tragedy
Slapstick
Farce
Comedy of manners
Satire
Burlesque