

Entrance Exam Study Guide

The following are general guidelines to help direct all incoming MA and MFA students in preparing for the General Knowledge Entrance Exam:

ACTING/DIRECTING:

Know the following Dramatists and the core ideas they represent or what they are best known for:

Stanislavski
 Boleslavski
 Meisner
 Brecht
 Boal
 Grotowski
 Artaud
 Meyerhold
 Spolin
 Strasberg
 Suzuki
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Be familiar with most important tenets of Aristotle's POETICS

What are the two classic purposes of theatre?

Aristotle's "inviolable rule"
 Moliere's "rule of all rules"

Know the following and their positions on the use of theatre:

Plato
 Aristotle

Know the definition of a "deus ex machina" (both literally and symbolically)

Familiarize yourself with the definitions and uses of the following terms:

Magic if
 Psychological Gestures
 Reality of doing
 Objective
 Motivation
 Affective memory
 Dialogue
 Subtext
 Obstacle
 Adjustment
 Beat
 Improvisation
 Climax
 Justification
 Spine

Indicating
 Inner Monologue
 Concentration

Familiarize yourself with the following:

Constantin Stanislavski's contribution to the modern age of acting.

The major tenets of Realism.

The major tenets of Naturalism.

The major tenets of Romanticism.

The major tenets of Neoclassicism.

The import of The Group Theatre.

The import of the Independent Theatre and Little Theatre Movements.

What are the major components of Aristotle's definition of tragedy and the six (6) elements of drama?

According to Aristotle's speculation, what are the conditions under which drama was born?

What are the major differences between Greek and Roman drama?

What is the import of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Seneca on the drama of the European Renaissance?

Under what conditions did theatre reemerge during the early Middle Ages?

The major types of drama in play during the Middle Ages.

The import of the contributions of Wm. Shakespeare and the "University Wits".

The major traits of the "Epic" theatre of Bertolt Brecht.

HISTORY:

Definition of Parados

Author of *The Frogs* and *Lysistrata*

Major works of Sophocles

Major works of Aeschylus

Major works of Euripides

Architectural aspects of Roman stage

Attributes of Roman mime

Reasons for Christian opposition to Roman Theatre

Which Roman playwright had the greatest influence on Renaissance drama?

What was the *Quem Queritis*?

Aspects of the Medieval Mystery Plays

What were medieval Morality Plays.

Be able to identify major attributes or ideas connected with the following:

Commedia del Arte
 The Globe Theatre
 Richard Burbage
 David Garrick
 The Mandrake
 Intermezzi
 Iago
 Ben Johnson
 Architettura
 Chariot and pole
 Holingshed's Chronicles
 Lope de Vega
 Phaedra
 Moliere
 Kabuki Theatre
 Beijing Opera
 Peking Opera
 Chinese Opera
 Restoration Theatre
 Major Barbara
 Tennessee Williams
 Tom Stoppard
 Samuel Beckett
 Harold Pinter
 Eugene O'Neil
 Edward Albee
 Peter Brook
 John Osborne
 Lamb's Players
 Saltworks Theatre Company
 A.D. Players
 Adelphi Theatre Company

Know which Theatre Manager/Director/Playwright is associated with the following theatre/play/or theory:

Max Reinhardt
 Vieux Colombier
 On the Art of Theatre
 Biomechanics
Dream Play
Peer Gynt
 Moscow Art Theatre
 The Abbey Theatre
 Freie Buhne

Peter Brook
Theatre Libre

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DESIGN:

Familiarize yourself with the following:

Four (4) functions of stage lighting (and most important).

Attributes of successful stage lighting.

Role and responsibilities of a stage manager.

The elements included in a costume bible.

Practical considerations in regard to costumes.

The importance and practical uses of silhouettes.

The elements and goals of costume design.

The vital elements, application and purposes of makeup.

The elements and sequential order of the design process.

Familiarize yourself with the general definition of the following terms:

thumbnail sketch
rear elevation
rendering
perspective sketch
focus track
locking rail
Analysis
Evaluation
Incubation
Commitment
Implementation
Selection
Research
position
line
color
texture

Related Notes:

- Costume design is defined by silhouette (an extension of line, as the primary element in any design)
- That unity of concept is the most important overall factor for the production design team.
- The basic start of any design is line.

- Understand the order of the theatrical design process.
- Purpose of stage make-up
- Primary colors in lighting, scenic and costume design
- Tools for communicating design ideas
- Practical considerations in regards to costumes and the costume bible
- What makes an effective designer?
- Functions and purpose of stage lighting
- Stage equipment, lighting devices, audio systems, props, and scenic machinery
- Scenic painting techniques
- Scenic materials
- Stage manager's primary functions and tools
- Types of stages
- Basic tools and construction techniques
- Basic electricity