

Entrance Exam Study Guide (revised 7-12-12)

Note: As you learn about the contributions of the theatre practitioners below, keep track of the vocabulary that you need to cover in the terminology section to kill two birds with one stone.

Acting Teachers/Directors/Performance Style Theorists:

Constantin Stanislavski (vocabulary & text titles)
Vsevolod Meyerhold (pedagogical contributions)
Richard Boleslavski (text & familiarity with chapters)
Bertolt Brecht (Texts including Notes to Mahagonny)
Lee Strasberg (historical overview & pedagogical contributions)
Sanford Meisner (vocabulary & pedagogical contributions)
Viola Spolin (texts & pedagogical contributions)
Jerzy Grotowski (key facts)
Augusto Boal (key facts)
Tadashi Suzuki (key facts)

A Few Theatre Publications of Note

Aristotle *The Poetics* (brief overview of text)
August Strindberg *Introduction to Miss Julie* (brief overview of text)
Gordon Craig *On the Art of Theatre*
Bertolt Brecht *The Modern Theatre is the Epic Theatre* (Notes to Mahagonny) – (familiarity with concepts)
Antonin Artaud *Theatre and it's Double* (brief overview of text)
Peter Brook *The Empty Space* (brief overview of text)

A Few Theatre Practitioners of Note

Richard Burbage (brief biographical familiarity)
Inigo Jones (brief biographical familiarity)
David Garrick (brief biographical familiarity)
Duke of Sax-Meiningen (George II) (brief biographical familiarity)
Adolphe Appia (brief biographical familiarity)
Max Reinhart (brief biographical familiarity)
Erwin Piscator (brief biographical familiarity)

Dramatists – The Short List

Sophocles (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Aeschylus (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Euripides (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Aristophanes (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Plautus (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Terence (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Seneca (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Christopher Marlowe (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
William Shakespeare (familiarity with text titles, overview of contributions to literature, biographical overview, familiarity with genre features of his plays & their roots)
Ben Johnson (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Lope de Vega (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Moliere (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Racine (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
William Congreve (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)

Goethe (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Oliver Goldsmith (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Richard Brindsley Sheridan (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Oscar Wilde (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Henrik Ibsen (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
August Strindberg (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
Anton Chekhov (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
George Bernard Shaw (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
Eugene O'Neill (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Frederico Garcia Lorca (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Tennessee Williams (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Noel Coward (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Arthur Miller (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Samuel Beckett (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
John Osborne (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
Eugene Ionesco (familiarity with text titles and historical perspective of his contributions)
Harold Pinter (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)
Edward Albee (familiarity with text titles and brief biographical familiarity)

Acting & Theatre History Terminology

(define & note the origins or, if pertinent, texts that provided the definitions)

Ancient Greek Theatre:

Deus ex machina

Chorus

Parodos

Exodos

Ekkylema

Aristotle

Six Components of Tragedy

Components of Plot

Complex Plot

Simple Plot

Horace

Unities

Medieval

Quem Quaeritis

Mystery Plays

Morality Plays

Medieval/Elizabethan

Holinshed's Chronicles England, Scotland and Ireland

Commedia dell'arte

Iambic Pentameter

Moliere

French scene

Rhymed Couplets

Comedy of Manners

Restoration

Georgian

Brecht

Epic Theatre

Alienation

Contemporary Acting Terms

Stanislavski

Subtext
Inner monologue
Obstacle
Fourth wall
Magic if
Motivation
Objective
Affective memory

Strasberg

Sense memory

General Terms

Improvisation
Justification
Super Objective (aka Spine)
Indicating
Concentration

Genres

(Note both the definitions and the historically pertinent practitioners known for them.)

Realism
Naturalism
Dadaism
Surrealism
Absurdism
Expressionism

Eastern Theatre

(Brief overview)
Kabuki Theatre
Noh Theatre
Beijing Opera

Design

Types of Stages:

- Proscenium
- Thrust
- Arena
- Alley (tennis court)
- Environmental (flexible)

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.

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

Basic tools and construction techniques

Basic electricity