THEATRE 150: Theatre History I

Final Project: The Dramaturgical Notebook

Dramaturgical Notebooks should be submitted to my office (or Blackboard) no later than 10:15, Thursday, May 9. No late projects will be accepted.

You are a dramaturge working on a major production of a play; it may be from the Classical Greek Theatre we studied at the beginning of the semester, the Medieval Theatre we studied mid-semester, or any play by Shakespeare. The director of the upcoming play is interested in finding a fresh take on the classic, and incorporating aspects of famous or important productions from the past. You have been asked you to pitch your idea for a play, and provide the relevant information in the form of a Dramaturgical Notebook.

The director is very particular and wants clear, rigorous, well-argued and efficient explanations as to why this play would be interesting to stage in 2019. You will use past productions of the play to help make your argument. Different past productions might tackle different kinds of dramaturgical issues: issues of translation, interpretation, acting style, design, historical/political context, place/space in which the play is performed. Information on past productions will come from newspaper and journal reviews, critical journal articles and scholarly books. You are also welcome to use websites that have information about past productions. However, websites cannot be your main source of information, and cannot be used in place of the ten critical sources you will be required to locate (i.e. the websites comprise additional sources of information).

Your first task is to decide which play you wish to read, analyze, research, and pitch to the director for this Dramaturgical Notebook

- It cannot be a play we have read in class
- It should not be too obscure; before selecting your play, you must first ensure that:
  1. You will be able to research past productions – either in the form of reviews, or critical scholarship that includes discussions of past productions;
  2. You can locate enough critical sources to support the requirements of the dramaturgical notebook (outlined below). If you cannot locate enough sources you need to select another play.

Submission

- This submission will be in the form of a Dramaturgical Notebook
  1. The notebook can be a three-ring plastic binder divided into sections (as outlined below);
  2. You can create a Digital Dramaturgy Notebook by using WordPress (https://wordpress.com/) or other free software for creating a website (sections are the same as the those for the 3-ring binder).

Requirements

If you are submitting a Dramaturgical Notebook in a 3-ring binder:

- Double-spaced 12-point font; 1-inch margins
- Include a cover sheet with your name, play title, play date and author
- Labelled sections should include:
  1. Letter to the director introducing the play you have selected, and why it would be interesting to stage in 2018. Think of this as a persuasive letter where you are making
your pitch. In other words, this letter needs an argument – in needs to answer the “so what” question for the director, and it needs to do so without vague generalities. The argument should be made with critical and creative rigor. If the director says yes, this could be your lucky break both as a dramaturge and as a future director or designer on another major production for this internationally acclaimed theatre company (500-1000 words).

2. Play (or play cycle) Overview (500 words)
3. About the Author section (if applicable) (500 words)
4. Historical Context (500 – 1000 words)
5. Production History (500-1000 words)
6. Critical Scholarship (500 – 1000 words)
7. Visual (and audio, if applicable) materials to help create the world of the play or the world of the performance of the play (in a city street, house, public space or theatre building)
8. Bibliography (minimum of ten sources; websites are in addition to the ten critical sources)

- Abide by all general rules regarding syntax, grammar, citations, etc.
- You need to use a **minimum** of ten sources to get credit for this assignment; if you are aiming for an A grade, you should be locating more than ten sources.
- You will present your findings to the class in advance of submitting your dramaturgical notebook

If you are submitting a Digital Dramaturgical Notebook:

- An example of a digital version: https://journeys.dartmouth.edu/thecrucible/ (note that your assignment requirements are different, but this is a good example of visual presentation)
- Include a Home tab with your name, play title, play date and author
- Tabs should be used for each of the following sections:
  1. Letter to the director introducing the play you have selected, and why it would be interesting to stage in 2018. Think of this as a persuasive letter where you are making your pitch. In other words, this letter needs an argument – in needs to answer the “so what” question for the director, and it needs to do so without vague generalities. The argument should be made with critical and creative rigor. If the director says yes, this could be your lucky break both as a dramaturge and as a future director or designer on another major production for this internationally acclaimed theatre company (500-1000 words).
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