

Theatre Lecture 7

The Director

1.
(Part I) Oversees all visual and artistic aspects of production

Unites script, acting, design elements into one whole production

Space, movement and sound together form story, mood and idea

2
Director decides interpretation

Interpretation - How a production is communicated to an audience

Geography

Shifting time periods (design)

(Part II) Cutting the script

3.
Director's process

Choose play

Must appeal to director first

Director agrees with playwright's view of world

Challenges: Time, Talent, Money

4.
Create metaphor

(Part III) Metaphor - an abstract expression that will guide all aspects of production (visual)

Symbols, pictures, images, comparisons

Precise but open ended

5.
Audition Performers

Casting is everything

5. (Continued)
Typecasting - Based on physical appearance

Nontraditional - Casting against gender, ethnicity

6.
Creating work environment

(Part IV) Conducive to creativity, trust, exploration, risk-taking, emotional vulnerability

Safe and confident enough to perform for audience

7.
Staging the play

Blocking - Arrangement and movement of actors on stage

Stage pictures - Moments that communicate relationships and action

Focus - Where audience should look

8.
Rhythm and pacing

Overall "feel" and "speed" of the play

(Part V) Dramas = slower

Comedies = faster

Audience's ultimate interest

9.
Directors usually begin as actors/dancers

Study analysis, art history, theatrical design

Communicator

Eye of the audience - Sees play for 1st time, just as audience will