## **Advanced Theatre**

Systems: Study Guide 1 January 20-28

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

Oscar Wilde

"I cannot conceive any work of art as having a separate existence from life itself."

Antonin Artaud

"Theatre is a form of knowledge. It should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it."

--Augusto Boal

"I feel the theatre is the most unique one of the all [the arts] for collaboration. I feel very fortunate to be in a field where I really do get to have long conversations with the visual artists, the actors, the musicians. It's all art forms rolled into one and I feel very fortunate to be a part of it."

--Susan Stroman

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

--Helen Keller

These quotes work together as a system to create one meaning, much the same way as theatre is giant system created of many separate systems working together. *Indeed, theatre is one of the most complex, yet influential and rewarding, systems in our modern society.* The actor has a system for creating a realistic, believable character. The set crew is a system that creates the world of the play. The wardrobe crew is a system creating the costumes to enhance the believability of the character and the set working together. The running crew develops a system for changing all the set pieces, props, costumes, lights, and sounds seamlessly from one scene to the next. And there are still more systems, too numerous to describe them all here. As these separate systems work together, THEATRE (one giant SYSTEM) is created. And as theatre is created, it becomes a system for teaching mankind about humanity, transforming our society into what it is and, hopefully, what it can become.

## **Essential Questions:**

What are the systems of theatre and how are they interdependent upon each other? How can I be part of multiple systems simultaneously? How can work within the theatre help me be successful in other systems of society? How do I influence the world through my participation in theatre?



Over the next 2 weeks, students will learn many things, including:

- The many systems that work together to form the Theatre System
- New information about your classmates
- How to prepare an audition
- Why auditions are important
- The theme of our class production

Some of the things students will do over the next 2 weeks will include:

- Participate in Yarn Toss Activity
- Prepare an audition with a given text
- Speak in front of the class (practicing projection and enunciation)
- Get to know the members of your company better
- Audition for a role in our class production
- Read and discuss the script for the class production

Audition:
1. Choral read the provided poem as a whole class. (Be sure you can correctly pronounce all words in the poem.)
2. Practice the poem outside of class. CHOICE: Memorize the poem or read it for the audition. *Note: If you choose to read the poem for your audition, be sure that you can read it while still looking at the audience.
3. Find the words that you fell are important to the meaning of the poem. Add special inflection or emphasis on those words.
4. Think about the character of the person who is "speaking" in this poem. Read the poem with the emotion or personality of this character.
5. Perform your poem during the audition period in class. Date of audition:
Get to Know You Board Game:
1. Using paper and colors, design a game piece that represents something about you (it can be a word that describes you, an object that you like, a hobby that you have, a place you want to go, etc.).
2. Following the instructions of the teacher, move your game piece around the game board.
3. When you speak, peak loudly and clearly (projection and enunciation).
4. Listen closely to what your classmates say about themselves. Be prepared to share 2-3 things that you learned about other people in class.
Read/Discuss Script for Class Production:
1. The theme of our class production is
2. We will perform our class play on
3. My part in the play is

\_\_\_ 4. With the class, participate in a first reading of the script for our class play. (Read your assigned part.)

5. In the space provided, write your first impressions of the play and your character:
6. Highlight your part in the play.
7. Participate in class discussion of the play. Share your first impressions or other thoughts you may have.
In the space below, write your answers to the Essential Questions: