**IB Theatre Arts**

**Director’s Notebook EA**

**Objective:** To explore the processes involved in transforming a play text into live action by developing a directorial vision for staging the play text.

**Perspective:** All students approach this task in the role of **director**.

**Criteria:**

* Choose a published PLAY text (not a musical)
  + I recommend a play that is possible to be read in one and half hours maximum.
* Read the text
* Research and record the cultural and/or theoretical context of the play and identify ideas the playwright may be addressing
  + Research the cultural context
  + Research the theoretical context, focusing on style, form, practice, or genre
  + Explore key ideas such as meanings, motifs, themes, etc
  + Document your thoughts in your journal
* Explore the play and record your ideas regarding how the play may be staged for an audience
* Explain your directorial intentions and explain how this will inform your staging of **two** particular moments of the play.
  + These should be moments of TEAM (tension, emotion, atmosphere, and meaning)
  + Through these moments, demonstrate an understanding of how performance and production elements function together to create these moments
* Reference **three** **live** performances you have experienced and how these have influenced, inspired, or informed your directing of these moments. These performances **may not** be the same play text selected for study.
* Director’s notebook must be no more than 20 pages and made up of visuals and words
  + Non-IB-assessed students have a maximum of 10 pages.

**Clarifications:**

* This is a conceptual/theoretical task! It is not to be staged or performed!
* It is your directorial vision! ☺
* This task is concerned with the textual exploration a director might carry out before they go into the rehearsal room to work with actors, defining what they want to bring out of the text and how it might look when finally staged. The process of how this might be achieved through rehearsals is **not** the focus of this task.
* You are allowed to set the play text in a style for which it was not originally intended.

**Requirements of the Play Text Selection:**

* Students choose a play text they have not previously studied or participated in.
* The play text must remain unaltered. Do not edit, make additions or alterations, or change the original printed work.

**The Role of the Teacher:**

**Yes:**

* Discuss a student’s choice of play text
* Guide the student’s explorations and discuss ideas
* Give feedback on **one** draft should the student seek feedback

**No:**

* Not permitted to prescribe ideas
* Not make decisions for a student

**Structuring the Director’s Notebook:**

* 20 pages maximum (no lower limit…but remember to address all criteria)
  + **Non-IB-assessed students have a maximum of 15 pages**.
* Write in the first person
* Present personal interpretations, responses, ideas, discoveries, and intentions.
* Be as precise and specific as possible when discussing performance and production elements.
* Use subject specific terminology to give a sense of precision (i.e. levels, focus, stage areas, tension, silence, etc.)
* Use relevant illustrations, annotated text from the play, charts, mind maps, visuals, diagrams, design visions, etc.
  + Clearly annotate and appropriately reference in Works Cited
* Works Cited (not included in page limit)
* Include a Table of Contents which uses the following sub-headings: (Table of Contents not included in the page count)
  + The Play Text, its Context, and the Ideas Presented in the Play
  + My Artistic Responses, Creative Ideas, and Explorations and My Own Experiences of Live Theatre as a Spectator
  + My Directorial Intentions and the Intended Impact on an Audience
  + How I Would Stage Two Moments of the Play

This is due on January 23rd and is the written component of your Final Exam in addition to your Multiple Choice.