



# WHAT IS THEATRE?

BY: CAROL JOB

# SO WHAT IS THEATRE?

Theatre is about an unclothed stage that can be transformed into era, geography, costume, lights, sets, sounds, and action. The actors' role in that unclothed stage is to convert that stage into a world of fictional reality characters through words. For instances, a play called "Black Comedy" by Peter Schaffer, the show open in darkness, however there was a blackout on the stage, and the stage immediately becomes brighter. The metaphor is that when the stage lights are on, the actors are experiencing darkness.



# WHAT I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THEATRE?

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In my introduction to my fellow classmate, I "pose" a question about what is theatre and how do actors memorized all their lines. I gained some insight into what is theatre and how actors really learn their lines. I learned that theatre is about creative expression in imagination, limitless possibilities, and the site of passionate labor. Throughout the semester I obtain an understanding that in the 19th century there were "no systematic means of training stage actors existed in the Western theatre tradition stated Charles Mitchell in "Theatrical Worlds". Today theatre is going through numerous transformational changes where there are more minority actors, directors, producers and other professional behind the scenes than in 1843.



# WHAT IS DIRECTING?

***Directing is a key managerial function***



The director is the guide and leader of the design, sound, costume, acting and other professionals behind the scene. He/She is in charge of all the creative aspects of the production. He/She is the person who makes sure that all of the parts of the production is put together to make a harmonious, efficient, and enjoyable production. The director is the one who also provides the overall creative view for the production and leads and guides his team to ensure that the production is creatively together according to his artistic view.

# WHAT ARE LIGHTS?

Lightning plays a pivotal role in the theatre and on the stage. Before the modernization of theatre lighting, ancient Greek and Roman theatres were held outdoors, where they used torches and shiny pieces of mica to redirect the natural light entering the theatre stated Kasendra Djunren in "Theatrical Worlds". However, in the sixteenth century, at the beginning of the Renaissance theatre, lightning began changing.





# WHATS IS COSTUMING?

A costume designer is someone who creates the whole optical identity of a character. A part of this optical vision is hair, makeup, accessories, and even the body shape. Some of these optical views can give the audience an indication about a character and his or her world. In addition, "by giving these clues, the costumer is helping to tell the story in a nonverbal way" stated Stacey Galloway in "Theatrical World". Some playwrights can outline certain setting by how a story can be told. For example, the "mid-afternoon on a cold December day in Maine, present day". Ever so often, it is partly outlined or not outlined.

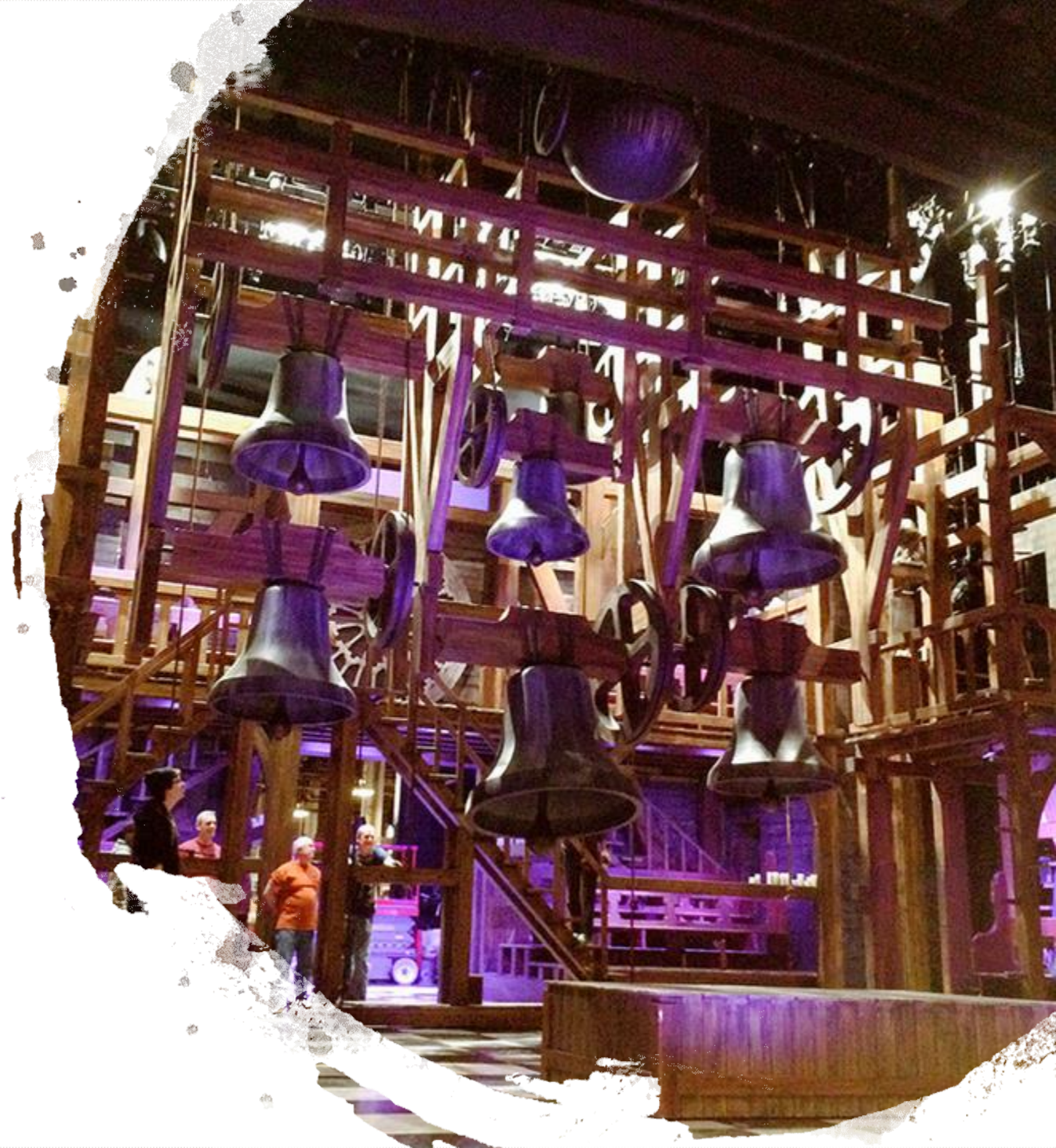


World theatre is different than Western theatre, and some countries use various theatrical formats to display their cultural heritage. In particular, countries like India it is normative to used chanting of the Hindu Vedas or sacred hymn books as part of their theatrical performances. For example," Kathakali performances of Kerala is closely related to kutiyattam and dramatizes devotion to the Hindu god Vishnu". Another country that use ancient traditional customs in their performances is Japan. Japanese Kabuki theatre was known for its unconventional style of theatre performances. One of the earliest pioneer of Kabuki theatre was a woman called Izumo no O kuni, "a female shrine dancer known for performing domestic stories full of sexual innuendo, Izumo is credited with inventing Kabuki performances and popularizing the all- female Kabuki theatres troupes in 1603" stated Michelle Hayford in Theatrical World.

## WHAT IS WORLD THEATRE?

# WHAT IS SOUND?

Theatrical sound design is important to any part of a plays' storyline. In addition, certain sounds can be used to initiate the time or location of a performance, or to produce, and intensify character and ambience.





# WHAT IS GENRE?



In "Theatrical World" Jim Davis outlined "genre is defined by specific actions taking place in the script-if funny things happen, it is a comedy. If a tragic things happen, it is a tragedy. However, a production can also be defined by being identified with a specific aesthetic or cultural movement, such as realism or feminism". In most productions there are various elements to the genre and to illustrate this, a production of a wide, Shakespearean comedy or a large ,extravagant Broadway musical may both feature elements of truthfulness despite the fact that none is practical.



# WHAT IS DEvised THEATRE?

This is how Martine Kei Green Rogers described devised theatre in "The Theatre Times", "through a series of improvisatory theatre games or other conceptual ice-breakers , they start to tease out the kinds of stories they'd like to tell them". For instances, in our own devise piece for our class project, each of us had to showcase our own interpretation of what devise theatre is.



## WHAT IS A SET DESIGN?

A theatre set is the theatrical world in which a play takes place. The set is also the environment where actors create new life into characters and paint portraits on canvas which directors used to stage their pictures. However, in some foreign theatre customs, the setting reflects a perception of and a regard for connectedness. In Chinese opera for instances they often present a plain arrangement of "two chairs, a table, and a rug" stated Mark E.Mallett in *Theatrical Worlds*.



## "WHAT IS MY CULTURE"?

I am from a small Caribbean Island called Trinidad/Tobago, Tobago is our sister isle. In my country there are many races that live together harmoniously. Our biggest national festival is Carnival and it is similar to New Orleans Mardi gras. Some of our national food is roti, pelau, crab and calloo. We have several small theatres that produce our local plays, like The Little Carib Theatre and we love a good "lime" on any given Sunday by the river. Trinidad is known for petroleum, and we have the largest Pitch Lake in the world that produces asphalt.

WHAT IS MY  
PERSONALIT?

“PERSONALITY IS TO A MAN  
WHAT PERFUME IS TO A FLOWER”  
- CHARLES SCHWAB



I am outgoing, love adventure and travel. I am kind and considerate towards everyone regardless of gender, race, income or religious doctrine.



# WHAT IS MY STYLE?

My style is headwear, bright colorful headwear. Headwear that says peace, love and unity. My style is how I express myself through spoken words, the way I walk, the way I smile and even in my laughter.

# IN MY CONCLUSION ABOUT WHAT THEATRE ENCOMPASSES.

Theatre is fun, theatre is laughter and I did learn that actors use different techniques to memorized their lines. Although I attend a theatre play every year, I did not know that so much work goes into producing these plays. For instances, I did not know that the director is "captain" of the lighting, costuming, and sound design teams and is also responsible for all artistic aspects of the production. Although, World Theatre is different than Western Theatre, it plays an influential role in theatre.

Genres are interpreted by specific actions taking place in a script that could make the audiences laugh, cry, ponder. Throughout the semester, I also learned that my style, culture and personality influenced what types of genres are interesting to me.

