

Dramaturg Description

R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S O F T H E P R O D U C T I O N D R A M A T U R G

The job of the dramaturg is to help assure unity of production concept with eventual staging, and to open up the world of the play to all its constituents, artists and audience alike. To this end, the activity of the Production Dramaturg falls into two related kinds of activity: *story analysis* and *communication*.

Dramaturgy is vigorously supported by the department and through faculty mentorship. However, dramaturgy is a highly self-driven activity, requiring a high level of discipline, commitment, and initiative over several months during a busy academic year.

GENERAL

1. Enroll in THAR 304 (Production Dramaturgy), ideally in the semester performances take place.
2. Schedule weekly meeting with Dramaturg Mentor upon acceptance of assignment, and thereafter at the end of every semester.
3. Submit work before required deadlines (program notes, study guide drafts, lobby video or display).
4. During production, check rehearsal report daily to stay current on rehearsal schedule.
5. During academic year, and until production opens, prioritize and respond promptly to e-mails or phone calls from stage manager, production manager, director, and Dramaturg Mentor.
6. Collaborate with the creative team with bravery, passion, kindness, and an open heart.

STORY ANALYSIS

1. Independently analyze structure of play.
2. Meet with director to discuss story and staging goals.
3. Productively and supportively offer affirmation and questions about story and staging goals in pre-production story meetings.
4. Attend early production or design meetings.
5. Attend all table work to listen to and contribute to discussion about the story of the play.
6. Attend limited number of blocking rehearsals to stay current with the conversation in the room about the story of the play.
7. Productively and supportively offer story notes after all run-thrus and previews. All notes should be typed and sent to director and copied to Dramaturg Mentor no later than NOON of the day following the run-thru or preview.
8. After first major run-thru, be available promptly for an in-person or phone meeting with director and Dramaturg Mentor to discuss notes.

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION DESIGN

1. Give a talk on one of the first days of rehearsal that gives cast and creative team an overview of the world of the play, with research highlights.
2. Provide general research support throughout pre-production and rehearsal process on the world of the play. Areas of research may include cultural, historical, social, and political research into the world

- of the play; biographical and artistic research into the playwright/composer and her world; production and reception history of the play.
3. Create a Research Packet that cleanly presents pertinent highlights from your research, including a glossary of unfamiliar terms.
 4. Create a Study Guide based on the research packet.
 5. Author Dramaturg's Notes for the program.
 6. Provide research support during table work. Sometimes table work is done in solid blocks in first few days or rehearsal. Sometimes it is done when director first works on a scene with actors. Director at various points in the reading of a scene will invite dramaturg to discuss a relevant aspect of the play. Dramaturg can also jump in at any point and ask director if she/he can offer something interesting about the world of the play. Don't be shy! The cast wants you to be the authority on the world of the play.
 7. Create a copy of your research casebook that will live in the rehearsal hall.
 8. As needed, find opportunities for field trips or expert visitors to rehearsal that can help open up the world of the play to the cast.
 9. As needed, create an Image Wall for the rehearsal room.
 10. As needed, create a Lobby Display for the production in collaboration with director.
 11. Be available for a minimum of 3 off-site outreach talks to outside classes before or during production.
 12. Submit work to the SCURF (Society and Culture Undergraduate Research Forum), and be available to present at SCURF in April 2014.
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