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COURSE:INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA AND THEATRE PFA 102

DEPARTMENT: PERFORMIG ARTS

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TEST

1. Dramatic characters are images of ourselves. Discuss

Dramatic characters, if well drawn they present to us a vivid, incisive picture of ourselves. We see individuals at their best and at their worst, we see them perform acts of heroic courage, acts we like to feel ourselves are capable of, and we see deeds of cowardice and violence- actions we fear we might commit in moments of weakness or anger. We see outrageous cases of folly and pretension which makes us laugh loudly. In short we see ourselves in the reviling and illuminating mirror theatre holds before us.

1. Discuss with examples the difference between extraordinary characters and modern characters.

Extraordinary characters are heroes and heroines, they generally represent men and women at the worst and best as shown by the play wrights, they frequently show them as people who are outstandingly villainous or saintly as leading characters in their plays, examples: kings, queens, military officials, bishops, members of nobility etc. while modern characters are normal people they are rarely queens or saint. The can be from the upper, middle or lower class, but their problems and concerns reflects those people in everyday life, even though they go to an extreme.

1. Write short notes on the following characters: contrasting characters, nonhuman characters, minor characters, and sub-minor characters.

Contrasting characters: contrasting characters are used to show off their determination and courage especially of the most determined person between the protagonist and antagonist. The antagonist is the main characters chief opponent.

Non-human characters: in Greece in the 5th century B.C and in many primitive cultures, actors portray birds and animals and the practice has continued to be present e.g. they have things like worldly possessions and beauty almost always non human characters emphasizes quality.

Minor characters: they appear briefly and serve chiefly to further the or support more important characters.

Sub-minor characters: they play supporting roles very close to minor characters they appear many times.

4a. define play analysis

Analysis means an explanation of a play to identify its component part, and explain their arrangement, and deduce the meaning that arises from them and their relation to the whole. To analyze both the plot and the characters.

b. plot is an important element to understand drama. Discuss

it is an important element to understanding drama because it is the summarized version and it gives a general understanding about what happens in the story, therefore this makes it easier to understand.

5a.list and discuss five elements of plot

Exposition

Rising action

Climax

Falling action

Resolution

Exposition: this is the beginning; every story must have a beginning. The start or exposition is where the characters are established. During this part of this drama the conflict or main problem is also introduce. It provides the background for the plot of the story.

Rising action: introduction of the problem or conflict. In this part of the story the main character is in crisis, this event creates tension and excitement in the plot. The complication can arise through a character conflict with society, nation, faith or a number of themes.

Climax: the high point. The climax is the high point of the story. It is the main event or danger that the character faces. This is the darkest moment, the worst challenge the character must oppose. At this point it looks as if the character will fail, and will never get what he or she wants.

Falling action: this winding down. Following the climax, the story begins to the climax; the story slowly begins to wind down. One of the final story elements shows the result of the actions or decisions the character has made as a result of climax. This eventually leads to final part of the drama crisis resolution.

Resolution: outcome. Here the conflicts are resolved, all loose ends are tied up and and the story concludes with either happy or sad ending.

b. discuss the differences between plot and story.

Plot is the summary of the play written down for brief and better understanding, while a story is the general play from the beginning to the end.

6a. define conflict

Conflict is a clash or disagreement, often violent between two opposing groups or individuals. It can also be defined as two opposing characters fighting over the same thing.

b. discuss the major types of conflict

Character vs Character: this is the most common type of conflict, in this classical conflict type, one character, that is the protagonist is fighting physically or mentally with another character that is the antagonist.

Character vs self: in some stories conflict does not come from an outside source but instead it comes from inside the character himself or herself. Often character vs self conflict involves an internal struggle or the attempt to overcome some fear or concern.

Character vs nature: when the problem the character is facing comes from the natural world, the character must deal with this type of conflict, feature a character trapped in the wilderness and fighting against the element for survival.

Character vs society: when the norms or rules of society prevent a character from reaching his or her goals, plots has character vs society conflict.

c. seeing a play and reading a play are different experiences. Discuss.

Reading a play requires special techniques that can be learned. This process of play reading will be examined in three stages: preliminary work, play analysis and organizing coherent response.reading a play means making an effort and knowing how to make the effort to understand the play as it may appear in the theatre.

Seeing a play is the complete theatrical experience. The performed play is like the music that comes when a musician transfers the notes into music. This is just basically watching the play come to life.