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**MATRIC NO:** 19/ART02/002

**COURSE CODE and TITLE:** PFA 102 – Introduction to Drama and Theatre

ANSWER ALL.

DURATION 2HOURS 30 MINUTES

1a) Give three definitions of theatre

- ✓ Theatre is where people make art of themselves for others to watch, experience, think, feel and understand. It is an immediate experience engaging actors and audiences for a brief time in a special place.
- ✓ Theatre is a play of seeing men and women in action of observing what they do and why they do it. Because human beings are both theatre subjects and its means of expression.
- ✓ Theatre is a performance that places human experience before a group of people (audience). For Theatre to happen two groups of people must come together -actors and audiences.

b) List and discuss the differences and similarities between Theatre and film

#### DIFFERENCES

**Mode of presentation :** Theatre's mode of presentation differs from film because Theatre performs live actions in front of its audience unlike the film where actions have been shot by a camera and edited then published. And once they start acting in theatre it can't be cut or paused.

**Idea of audiences:** the audience of the film is world wide or mass it has no specific amount of audience but the Theatre has a live audience, it is a measurable amount and are often situated in a place.

**Actors :** Actors in theatre are visible and live on stage. While film is in form of moving pictures.

#### SIMILARITY

**Self awareness :** the artists are self aware of what is going on and what is happening next. But on the mind of its audience they are unaware of it.

2) Enumerate and explain the characteristics that set theatre apart from other arts

- **Actors**
- **Space**
- **Ephemeral** etc.

**Actors** : The most important aspect of the theatre, theatrical art involves actors impersonating characters. This feature separates it from other art forms such as poetry, painting, sculpture, music, performance art, and cabaret acts. A two-way communication between the stage and the audience. Theatre uses the tools of re-enacting events or stories spontaneously for an audience to view and comprehend. It takes and combines many fundamental aspects of other art forms, and moulds them into a single art form by itself.

**Space** : It requires a place for performance, to provide a conducive atmosphere for communication. And all its scene a to be depicted there with its set design, you cannot move from place to place because you have to act a particular scene. For instance you act a scene in an office then everyone move to a stream for the next scene. So space is one that differs from other art.

**Ephemeral**: Theatre is ephemeral in the sense that no performance can ever be totally duplicated or captured the word ephemeral means fleeting. the audience gets only what the characters do or say -- does not have vantage point of prose fiction, where the author can comment on action / characters.

3) Life and Theatre are different yet they share some similarities. Discuss

Theatre and Life has its differences and also they are similar. In life, we all have our **past**, **present** and **future**, so it is in theatre. There is a **beginning**, **middle** and **an end**. It moves forward with time just as life is in reality. Although, life may last for years, theatre lasts for a few hours.

Just as life is, having men and women moving about from place to place **talking** and **acting** while other **watch** and **listen** is the same way theatre operates. There are actors moving on **stage** which is their own world at that moment and when they **act** and **speak** we have we those who **watch** and **listen** ;they are the audience. Life may be dangerous but they're is seen in a special way.

#### 4) Discuss the elements of theatre and impact or effects of the audience in a performance

These are some element of Theatre, they are the vital tools need for Theatre to occur and for any play to be successful -

- **Performers:** this consists of the actors who bring out the texts in scripts to life. They are the ones who we usually see on stage acting and impersonating characters personality. Without the actors there is nothing that can be done to put a play on stage, they are the most important part if Theatre production.
- **Audience:** the audience is a group of people who come together from different places to see a play. Everything that happens on stage and the steps taken for a production is for the sake of the audience, In order to satisfy them. So it is pointless to have a play on stage without an audience.
- **Directors:** This is the demi-god of any production. He chooses his play and ingests it well, he selects his actors and guides them on the script through a series a rehearsal. He adds his own artistic value and works closely with all other Theatre personnel involved. They are responsible for the aesthetic value of any play, whether a play is successful or not the blame or praise goes to them. He is the master mind behind any production.
- **Theatre space:** the theatre space is the allocated location to any performance, be it dance or drama. This is where the performance takes place other than that space everything else around is not part of the shown. Without this theatre can not go on.
- **Script :** the script is a written text of the actions on stage. It serves as a manual or guideline for the director and actors of adhere to in order to give a meaningful performance.
- **Theatre personnels:** these consists of the scenic designers, lightman, props manager, costumer, technical director etc. They are the extra hands of the director, they assist in order aspect of a production to bring out necessary effect, tone and mood.

#### **IMPACT OF THE AUDIENCE IN A PERFORMANCE**

The effect the audience places on a performance is to bring out the best and other hidden potentials of the actor while on stage. The actor are motivated to do all they can and put in their best effort to make it a successful play. Unlike rehearsals and dress rehearsals the characters tend to be less motivated since they are acting for the director compare to what they will do in front of the audience. A rehearsal with at least 70% performance will surely produce 100% on the main stage.

5) Theatre is an act of discovery. Discuss

A theatre is an elitist art form and while going to the theatre you will get a wonderful opportunity to explore the human condition and gather together. It is the intricate part of the human history because it is having the capability to show the best and worst sides of human nature. Most people ask about the importance of theatre and its usefulness to improve creativity level. The theatre is important for many reasons such as Self discovery, Expression, History and education, Performing arts, Creativity etc.

Performing art is about being creative and it teaches people how to express ourselves more effectively. Also discovering new hidden talent and help to increase level of confidence in oneself. It gives room for criticism after which actors tend to improve in other areas, so they discover new things as they improve and act.

6) Theatre is ephemeral. True or False? Discuss.

True...

Theatre is ephemeral because it lasts for a short period of time. And as soon as it starts it can not be stopped it keeps going till the end, it's a one time experience and it can not be taken back. Also it is self explanatory in the sense that while watching you understand it without anyone having to explain. Moreover, if you were to put up the life history of an individual, maybe Aare Afe, we can not say because it is his life we have to act from the day he was born to his present age. So by being ephemeral, eighty years can be shrunk into two hours by picking out the important and significant areas of his life and acting it in such a way that the audience will be aware of who is being impersonated on stage.