

IB THEATRE SENIORS  
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2009

For your summer reading, I'd like you to concentrate on your search for interesting Research investigation topics.

A. You will look for FIVE potential research investigation topics, and come up with a few interesting bits of information about each. Look BEYOND Wikipedia for information. This part of the work requires you to identify unfamiliar theatre practices. Here's what the IB says about that:

**1. Choose an unfamiliar theatre practice**

The student identifies a theatre practice that is unfamiliar to them. This may be:

- a theatrical **tradition** from a particular culture and/or time, for example, Kathakali
- a theatrical **style** originating from a particular time, movement, culture, practitioner, for example, Restoration comedy
- a theatrical **movement** originating from a particular time, culture, practitioner, for example, Butoh
- a theatrical **form** developed by a practitioner, theorist, playwright, for example, Brecht's Epic Theatre.

The student does some initial research to get a feel for this tradition.

Look later on in this packet for a list of some potential traditions, styles, movements or forms – but there are MANY more so feel free to search beyond the list. When you have selected one that interests you, fill in the graphic organizer with TEN items of interest about that tradition, style, movement or form. No need to narrow the focus down – just find 10 interesting facts or concepts. Using your own words, write a little info for each of the 10 facts. In the SOURCE column, list the website, book, article etc. where you found the info – full MLA sourcing not needed, just give an indication of where you found it.

The last column is for you to indicate who this information might be useful for – actor, director, designer. The info might be useful for one, two or all three of these categories.

B. For each of the FIVE potential research investigation topics you've identified, there is a space to write the names of THREE plays or pieces of theatre that are associated with that tradition, style, movement or form. Nothing but name and author is needed – or an indication of what theatre pieces conform to this tradition (in the case of instances where you find a tradition with no named plays and authors). What does Mr. IB say about specific plays within the tradition?

**2. Choose a play/piece of theatre appropriate to or chosen from the selected theatre practice**

The student researches into plays/pieces of theatre that are either from or appropriate to the chosen theatre practice. The student selects an appropriate play that would be rich as a primary source on which to base the research into the unfamiliar practice.

Take note of the fact that it says the play must be either FROM or APPROPRIATE TO the chosen practice – so it's possible to find a play that is IN THE STYLE OF but not actually FROM the practice.

At this point all you need is TITLES and AUTHORS – no need to actually read the play(s) at this point – BUT, once you find a topic you want to explore for your official RI, you will need to go to the next step:

### **3. Examine the play/piece of theatre**

The student reads and examines the play/piece of theatre, keeping in mind the practice that is going to be researched. Regarding the practice, which aspects of the play/piece are most appropriate for further examination and exploration?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANY PLAY READING FOR THIS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT! But if you find a research topic that really interests you, then there's nothing wrong with starting to look deeper into it!

C. Make up a potential RESEARCH QUESTION for your theatre tradition. This is just to practice the art of writing the question. Be sure to include mention of the tradition, the play and the target audience (director, performer, designer). IB has this to say about the research question:

### **4. Formulate a research question**

A question requires an answer or a solution. The point of a question is to narrow down and concentrate the research so that the student has a focus and can demonstrate relevance. At this point the student might also think about which member of the production team (designer, director, performer, choreographer, music director) might find the information most useful. The formulation of a research question also makes it easier for the student as it helps them to narrow down the sources that they will consult and examine, and guides them in their search for research materials. It also helps them to check their investigation against the research question they have set, to ensure:

- that the question has been addressed or answered and possible solution/s found
- that everything included is relevant and useful.

The question should emerge from the relationship between the unfamiliar practice selected and the play/piece of theatre from that practice.

### **D. WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THIS STUFF**

TO RECAP, your summer work will consist of FIVE of the Graphic Organizers, completely filled in, which will be submitted when we get back for the fall, like so:

- First day of school, August 31 – You'll give me a simple list of the 5 traditions you looked at
- Wednesday, September 2 – you'll submit your finished graphic organizers to me. Be sure to keep your saved work, because you will use it to create:
- A PowerPoint presentation on ONE of the FIVE that I will assign to you – giving us (hopefully) a survey of 13 potential starting points for research that people might want to go deeper into.
- PowerPoint presentations will begin Tuesday, September 8. Specifics about the presentations will be given when you get back to school so there is NO NEED TO THINK ABOUT THEM now or over the summer!

The other major thinking I want you to do over the summer is about your independent project. Read over your material about the project during the summer and start thinking about what you want to do. I'll ask you to declare your project by mid-September and to finish it by the end of semester 1 in January. If you have any ideas or questions just shoot them at me over the summer.

## Some Potential Topics for IB Theatre Research Investigation

Arabian Shadow Puppets	Korean Mask Dance
French Farce	Kuttiyattam
Commedia dell' arte*	Legong Kraton
Kabuki	Butoh
Vaudeville	Bunraku Puppetry
Yiddish Theater	Cantonese Opera
Victorian Melodrama	English Music Hall
Kathakali	Carnivale
Noh Theater*	Naturalism/Realism
Butoh	Austrian Marionette theatre
Vietnamese Water Puppets	Comedy of Manners
Resoration Comedy	Grosso Criollo
Roman Theater	Karagoz (Turkish Shadow Puppetry)
Spanish Farce	Kuttiyattam
Roman Comedy	Legong Kraton
American Burlesque	Indonesian Tari
Medieival Theatre: mystery, morality, passion plays	French Farce
Sanskrit theatre	Rakugo Japanese "sit down" theatre
South African Apartheid theatre	Thai Nang Yai
Irish theatre	African Folk and Popular Theatre
Brecht's Epic Theatre	Romanian Marionettes
German Expressionism	Simcheongga Korean Storytelling
Greek Comedy	Sri Lankan folk ritual and dance drama
Greek Tragedy*	Thai Nang Yai
Elizabethan theatre*	Balinese dance drama
German romanticism	Beijing Opera/Peking Opera
Absurdism	Botswana Mask Theatre
Theatre of Cruelty	Pantomime
Karagoz (Turkish Shadow Puppetry)	Native American Storytelling

This list is not exhaustive but instead offers a starting place for looking around.

\*topics studied or to be studied in class; might be difficult to focus on an unfamiliar aspect

On the next five pages are FIVE Graphic Organizers for you to use in your exploring.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IB THEATRE SENIORS  
RESEARCH INVESTIGATION EXPLORATION

#1  
THEATRE TRADITION, MOVEMENT, STYLE OR FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FUN FACT (Interesting, important)</b>	<b>SOURCE (web address, book title, etc)</b>	<b>USEFUL FOR: (Performer, Director, Designer)</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Three plays/pieces of theatre from or appropriate to this tradition:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Potential research question for study of this tradition:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IB THEATRE SENIORS  
RESEARCH INVESTIGATION EXPLORATION

#2

THEATRE TRADITION, MOVEMENT, STYLE OR FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FUN FACT</b> <b>(Interesting, important)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b> <b>(web address, book title, etc)</b>	<b>USEFUL FOR:</b> <b>(Performer, Director, Designer)</b>
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9.		
10.		

Three plays/pieces of theatre from or appropriate to this tradition:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Potential research question for study of this tradition:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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RESEARCH INVESTIGATION EXPLORATION

#3

THEATRE TRADITION, MOVEMENT, STYLE OR FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FUN FACT</b> <b>(Interesting, important)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b> <b>(web address, book title, etc)</b>	<b>USEFUL FOR:</b> <b>(Performer, Director, Designer)</b>
1.		
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10.		

Three plays/pieces of theatre from or appropriate to this tradition:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Potential research question for study of this tradition:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IB THEATRE SENIORS  
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#4

THEATRE TRADITION, MOVEMENT, STYLE OR FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FUN FACT</b> <b>(Interesting, important)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b> <b>(web address, book title, etc)</b>	<b>USEFUL FOR:</b> <b>(Performer, Director, Designer)</b>
1.		
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10.		

Three plays/pieces of theatre from or appropriate to this tradition:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Potential research question for study of this tradition:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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RESEARCH INVESTIGATION EXPLORATION

#5

THEATRE TRADITION, MOVEMENT, STYLE OR FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FUN FACT</b> <b>(Interesting, important)</b>	<b>SOURCE</b> <b>(web address, book title, etc)</b>	<b>USEFUL FOR:</b> <b>(Performer, Director, Designer)</b>
1.		
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10.		

Three plays/pieces of theatre from or appropriate to this tradition:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Potential research question for study of this tradition: