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THEORY PAPER
Elements of Theater

B.A (f.Y, S.Y, T.Y)

What are the basic elements of Theatre?

There are certain elements common to all theater.

These elements are present whenever a theater event takes place; without them, an event ceases to be theater and becomes a different art form and different experience".

(According to the book "Theater, The Lively Art".)

To sum up, the following are the major elements of theater:

- 1) [Performers](#)
- 2) [Audience](#)
- 3) [Director](#)
- 4) [Theater Space](#)
- 5) [Design Aspects](#) (scenery, costume, lighting, and sound)
- 6) [Text](#) (which includes focus, purpose, point of view, dramatic structure, and dramatic characters)

1) Performers

People onstage presenting characters in dramatic action.

The audience is coming to see a performer pretend to be someone else. When the actor/actress is on stage, they must be believable as the character they are portraying. If they are not believable, then the audience will be less interested in the production.

2) Audience

The essence of theater is the interaction between the performer and audience. Theater needs to be experienced live. There is a "call and response" atmosphere that can not be witnessed in a movie theater. In a live theater experience, when the audience laughs out loud, or cries, then the actors respond to that energy. In a movie, there is no connection between the actors and audience, only reactions from the audience.

3) Director

The director makes certain that the performers understand the text and deliver the script excitingly and appropriately. The director also makes sure the blocking, costume designs, set designs and other aspects of the show blend together to make a production that works together. *All the aspects of theater should compliment each other, and the director oversees all these things.*

4) Theater Space

Another necessary element of theater is the space in which performers or audiences come together. It is essential to have a stage, or some equivalent area, where actors and actresses can perform. It is also essential to have a place for audience members to sit or stand.

5) Design Aspects

Visual Aspects - costumes, lighting, and some form of scenic background
Nonvisual Aspect - sound

6) Text

A final element essential to theater is the ***text*** that is performed, and it must be present for theater to occur. Another name for the text is ***script***. One key element for writing is **CONFLICT**. The characters should have a goal to reach, but to reach that goal they must go through a series of conflicts. Without conflict the story would be bland and boring. When writing your script, how can you make your story more interesting?

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