

The Art of the Theatre

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The Art of the Theatre

CHAPTER 1 THEATRE, ART, AND ENTERTAINMENT

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Aesthetics | Experimental Plays | Pictorial Arts |
| Aristotle | Havel, Václav | Plato |
| Brook, Peter | Historical Theatre | Political Theatre |
| Commercial Theatre | Jones, Robert Edmond | Rand, Ayn |
| Cultural Theatre | Literary Arts | Spatial Arts |
| Drama vs. Theatre | Performing Art | Subject & Medium |
| | Picasso, Pablo | |

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1) Theatre, Art, and Entertainment
 - a) The uncommon metro station performance of Joshua Bell
 - b) Great art is no longer a once in a lifetime experience
 - c) The true value of art is not its price tag, but its ability to make us feel and think.

- 2) Art, or Not Art: That Is The Question
 - a) How the word art appears in everyday conversation.
 - i) Skill
 - (1) Derives from the Latin word *ars*
 - (2) Synonymous with the ancient Greek word *technē*, which means “skill” or “technique.”
 - ii) Beauty
 - (1) Aesthetics is the branch of philosophy that deals with the nature and expression of beauty.
 - (2) But is all art beautiful?
 - iii) Meaning
 - (1) When the word art is used in this way, the implicit meaning is “this is life as I, the artist, see it. This is my personal take on things.”
 - (2) Artists in search of meaning may choose to ignore, intend of challenge, or utterly defy traditional social values and disregard common standards of technique and beauty.
 - (3) This also means that a work of art that may be made with little skill, contain little beauty, and be unpleasant is sometimes hard to comprehend.

- iv) What should art do?
 - (1) Is art only a thing of beauty and pleasure?
 - (2) Is art a tool to educate?
 - (3) Is art designed to inform, influence, and incite?
 - (4) All of the above?

- 3) Plato, Aristotle, and Theatre Arts
 - a) Plato
 - i) Accused theatre people of promoting "vice and wickedness."
 - ii) Said that that people forget themselves and are highly manipulated, even irrational, when under the influence of the arts.
 - iii) Said that art must be subservient to the state and to society
 - iv) Advocated banning plays that did not promote the well-being of the body politic
 - v) Called for censorship because people are imitative animals and tend to become what they imitate.
 - vi) Called for only suitable role models on stage.
 - vii) Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) disliked the theatre because he felt that the audience members' conscience stop functioning during performances.
 - viii) Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778) said that the arts spread flowers over the chains that blind people, smothering their desire for liberty."
 - b) Aristotle
 - i) Disagreed with his mentor.
 - ii) Felt art and theatre awakened the soul.
 - iii) Believed that good theatre fortifies us because it allows us to release repressed emotions in a controlled, therapeutic way.
 - iv) Held that art does not slavishly copy nature but instead clarifies, abstracts, interprets, and idealizes it.
 - v) Said that art depicts the universal character of things and includes the lessons the artist has learned by living and observing nature.
 - vi) Nature, according to Aristotle, tends towards perfection but doesn't always attain it. We therefore need things like art and theatre to correct the deficiencies of nature by clarifying, interpreting, and idealizing life.

- 4) The Qualities of Art
 - a) Defining the word "art" is difficult but defining any word is difficult.
 - b) Ludwig Wittgenstein says we should define by pointing out family resemblance. The family resemblances of the word art are:
 - i) Art Is A Form Of Human Expression
 - (1) Only human beings can make art
 - (2) Art springs from the same root as the word artificial.
 - (3) It is not the real thing but a human copy
 - ii) Art Consists of a Subject and a Medium
 - (1) The subject of the work is what that work is about.
 - (2) The medium is the method, substance, and technique used to create the work.
 - (3) Every type of art has a different medium that defines it and makes it unique.

- (a) Spatial arts
 - (b) Pictorial arts
 - (c) Literary arts
 - (d) Performing art
- iii) Art Makes You Feel Something
- (1) Art does not come to life until a spectator, a listener, an audience, a crowd or an individual breathes life into it by experience
 - (2) Harold Taylor (1914–1993) said that man must know how to “respond to other people and other ideas, different from his own, rather than reacting against them.”
- iv) Art Provides the Perception of Order
- (1) Art attempts to give structure, a meaningful form or order
 - (2) "It is the function of all art to give us some perception of an order in life, by imposing order upon it," said the poet T.S. Eliot
 - (3) Structure of form reflects human intelligence and our ability to create order.
 - (4) In theatre, structure can refer to how a drama fits together as a recognizable progression of events through the arrangement and interconnection of story and character.
 - (5) Art emphasizes certain parts of life and de-emphasizes others
 - (6) Does art imitate life or is it based on the artist’s opinion and interpretation?
- 5) To Be an Artist Means Finding Form and Structure
- a) Our need for form and structure is really the need to simplify
 - b) Humans need structure and theme because the world in which we find ourselves appears to be disorganized or at least lacking in purposeful design
 - c) Art, along with science and religion, helps us find structure; with structure comes meaning.
- 6) Artists Are Political (the good, the bad, and the ugly)
- a) When artist select and arrange, they express a value judgment and reveal their beliefs.
 - b) Art is like politics in the broad sense in that it reflects people’s conflicting ideas about how we should live, how society should be organized, and how the world functions.
 - c) The artists’ fundamental views of life are embodied within their art.
 - d) Artists states their opinions about life
 - e) They make value judgments
 - f) They reveal their dominant philosophy of life.
 - g) They select those aspects of existence they believe are significant, isolate them, and stress them to create meaning.
 - h) Their fundamental views of life are embodied within their art.
 - i) Artists are often involved in politics

- i) Many artists espouse political causes, actively support political candidates, state their political opinions publicly, or create art about specific political ideas.
 - (1) Clash and *Rage Against the Machine*
 - (2) *Dixie Chicks*
 - (3) Athol Fugard
 - (4) Arnold Schwarzenegger
 - (5) Vigdis Finnbogadottir
 - (6) Václav Havel
 - (7) Sonny Bono
 - (8) Fred Grandy
 - (9) Ben Jones
 - (10) Ronald Reagan
 - (11) Theo van Gogh
 - (12) Ken Saro-Wiwa

- 7) The life and death of Ken Saro-Wiwa
 - a) Playwright and author of children's books
 - b) An outspoken critic of:
 - i) Nigerian government
 - ii) Environmental pollution
 - iii) The unfair business practices of Shell Oil Company
 - c) Organized peaceful protests, wrote pamphlets on minority and environmental rights, and launched the grassroots community-based political movements
 - d) Brought up on trumped up murder charges and despite international protests, eight days later he was executed

- 8) What is Theatre? Or is it Drama?
 - a) Theatre is the only art for which the medium and subject are exactly the same.
 - b) Theatre comes from Theatron = "seeing place."
 - c) Drama comes from "dromenon" = "to take action, to do, to make, or to accomplish."
 - d) The Empty Space by Peter Brook states that all that is needed for theatre to occur is an empty space and someone to walk across that space while someone else watches.
 - e) Drama is a form of theatre that tells a story about people, their actions, and the conflicts that result.
 - f) Theatre is about conflict
 - g) Theatre is always live
 - h) Drama and theatre are always about human beings
 - i) Theatre often require more than one type of art and artist

- 9) The Roles Theatre Plays in Society
 - a) Commercial theatre
 - i) Politically safe themes
 - ii) Entertainment designed to appeal to a majority of the general public

- b) Historical theatre
 - i) Plays of a particular historical period
 - ii) Still relevant themes
- c) Political theatre
 - i) Themes that are seldom heard in the mainstream media or in commercial theatre
 - ii) Propaganda plays
- d) Experimental theatre
 - i) New staging techniques
 - ii) May questioning the nature of theatre itself
- e) Cultural theatre
 - i) Is designed to support the heritage, customs, and point of view of a particular people, religion, class, country, or community
 - ii) May reinforce your own culture

10) Art versus Entertainment

- a) Entertainment
 - i) Generally shows us an agreeable mirror of ourselves and our ideas
 - ii) Entertainment fulfills our expectations
 - iii) Contains safe themes
- b) Art
 - i) Art doesn't seek to confirm society's values
 - ii) Often solicits change
- c) A work can also be both art and entertainment.
- d) But what happens when we indulge in a diet dominated by entertainment?

11) The difference Between Art & Entertainment

- a) Art
 - i) Lets us stand outside ourselves and see the world from another's point of view
 - ii) Is directed toward the individual
 - iii) Makes us think
 - iv) Is about education
 - v) Demands an intellectual effort to appreciate it
 - vi) Requires active viewing
 - vii) Is about self-examination. As Socrates said, "the unexamined life is not worth living"
 - viii) Takes time to contemplate
 - ix) Has great potential as an agent of social change
 - x) Challenges the audience
 - xi) Is about edification, transcendence, and contemplation
 - xii) Does not compromise for public taste
- b) Entertainment
 - i) Pulls us into ourselves and reaffirms our point of view
 - ii) Is directed toward the largest possible number
 - iii) Makes us think we're thinking
 - iv) Is about sameness

- v) Makes no intellectual or other demands on the viewer
- vi) Can be done with passive viewing. It is audience-friendly
- vii) May examine life but it does not lead to criticism
- viii) Is easily digested
- ix) Has little potential as an agent of social change
- x) Flatters the audience
- xi) Is about gratification, indulgence, and escape
- xii) Always takes into account public tastes

12) Curtain Call

- a) Why do we need art?
- b) Art helps us to see life differently
- c) Art allows us to expand our experience, intensify our perceptions, challenge conventional wisdom, and introduce another frame of reference

DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

- **Next to politics and religion there is no single subject that is apt to arouse more disagreement and a livelier class debate than the answer to the question: What is art?**

For a discussion prompt, note that the *American Heritage Dictionary* says art is “a human effort to imitate, supplement, alter, or counteract the work of nature.” *Webster’s Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary* says that art is “the disposition or modification of things by human skill...” Note the key word in common to the definitions: human. We’ve all heard of people putting paintbrushes in the trunks of elephants or in the hands of monkeys and letting the creatures splash paint all over a canvas. Is this art?

- **Should art educate, inform, influence, and incite, or should it be an object of pleasure, or both?**
- **Can there be too much entertainment? What happens to a society when it is constantly entertained?**
- **What types of entertainments dominate our culture? What do our entertainments say about us?**

Our entertainment reflects our culture. The French Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) said, “An intrepid, grave and cruel people want deadly and perilous festivals in which valor and composure shine. A ferocious and intense people want blood, combat, and terrible passions. A voluptuous people want music and dances. A gallant people want love and civility. A frivolous people want joking and ridicule...” But the one thing all people share in common is that they want their entertainment to reaffirm their values.

There is nothing wrong with being entertained, but never before in the history of the earth has there been so much entertainment concentrated in a single population. What happens when a society has so much entertainment? When entertainment invades every aspect of our lives? What happens when our values are constantly reinforced? When even our religious television programming looks more like the Tonight Show than a church program or when we have teachers asking how can we make learning more “fun”? That usually means creating more comfortable, less challenging environments, says Mark Edmundson, an English professor at the University of Virginia, by creating “places where almost no one failed, everything was enjoyable, and everyone was nice.”¹ North America produces more entertainment than anywhere else on earth; as a result some feel we live in a therapeutic culture where everything is entertainment and therefore restorative, reaffirming, and unchallenging.

- **Ask your students to discuss the following differences between art and entertainment. You should also ask them if they agree or disagree with the differences and why or why not.**
 - Art lets us stand outside ourselves and see the world from another’s point of view.
 - Entertainment pulls us into ourselves and reaffirms our point of view.

 - Art is directed toward the individual.
 - Entertainment is directed toward the largest possible number.

 - Art makes us think.
 - Entertainment makes us think we’re thinking.

 - Art demands an intellectual effort to appreciate.
 - Entertainment makes no intellectual or other demands on the viewer.

 - Art requires active viewing.
 - Entertainment can be done with passive viewing: It is audience-friendly.

 - Art is about self-examination.
 - Entertainment may examine life but it does not lead to criticism.

 - Art has great potential as an agent of social change.
 - Entertainment has little potential as an agent of social change.

 - Art challenges the audience.
 - Entertainment flatters the audience.

¹ Life The Movie Page 139

SUGGESTION FOR SHORT PAPERS

- **Have the class write a short paper where they argue a case for Plato or Aristotle’s opinion of art.**

Should art educate, inform, influence, and incite, or should it be simply an object of entertainment and beauty? Plato didn’t like the theatre. In his book *The Republic* he warns that people forget themselves and are highly manipulated, even irrational, when under the influence of the theatre. He felt that the danger of the arts is its power to instill values hostile to the community, so he banished the poet (by which he meant “playwright” but the word did not yet exist) from the ideal state in order to protect citizens from what can happen when they become spellbound. He said, “The poet is a sophist, a maker of counterfeits that look like the truth.” Plato’s student Aristotle disagreed with his mentor. He felt that, rather than just stirring undesirable passions, art and theatre awakes the soul. Instead of putting us at the mercy of our baser instincts, Aristotle believed that good theatre actually fortifies us because it releases repressed emotions and that these releases can be therapeutic. Aristotle said that our need for theatre could be traced back to two things: First, we get pleasure when we recognize our likeness. Whether watching ourselves in a mirror or actors on stage, we enjoy watching our kind. And second, which is closely tied to the first, is our love of imitation.

- **Have the class write a short paper about their favorite TV show or movie explaining why that show reaffirms their values.**

“How does my favorite TV show or movie reaffirm my values?” For example, a student might pick the sitcom *Will and Grace* which may well appear to challenge American values. However, as Caryn James recently pointed out in the *New York Times*, “The show’s popular success tells us that Americans will watch the story of a gay man and his female best friend. But *Will and Grace* also hints (here is its nasty secret) that it is safe to create a stereotypical flouncing gay man in Jack, who can reassure viewers that their prejudices are true.”² This can be a very difficult paper to write, for students must analyze the show and their society.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1) This branch of philosophy deals with the nature and expression of beauty.
 - a) Metaphysics
 - b) Ethics
 - c) Politics
 - d) Aesthetics
 - e) Epistemology

Answer: d

² *New York Times* Oct. 1st. 2000

2) When the word *art* appears in everyday conversation, it is used in a wide array of contexts but generally conveys three main ideas. Which of the following is **not** one of the three?

- a) Sophistication
- b) Skill
- c) Beauty
- d) Meaning

Answer: a

3) This ancient philosopher accused theatre people of promoting vice and wickedness and of being largely responsible for the corruption of his day.

- a) Epictetus
- b) Plato
- c) Archimedes
- d) Aristotle
- e) Confucius

Answer: b

4) This ancient philosopher believed that good theatre fortifies us because it allows us to release repressed emotions in a controlled, therapeutic way.

- a) Epictetus
- b) Plato
- c) Archimedes
- d) Aristotle
- e) Confucius

Answer: d

5) Which of the following is **not** one of the five basic elements that all art has to a certain extent?

- a) A form of human expression
- b) Values
- c) Subject and Medium
- d) Reaction
- e) A perception of Order

Answer: b

6) Its purpose is to reaffirm the audience's values and confirm their established belief systems.

- a) Science
- b) Literature
- c) Art
- d) Entertainment
- e) University

Answer: d

7) This type of art is created by manipulating material in space and includes sculpture, pottery, and architecture.

- a) Spatial art
- b) Graphic art
- c) Literary art
- d) Performing art
- e) Visual art

Answer: a

8) This type of art is illustrative and includes drawing and painting.

- a) Spatial art
- b) Graphic art
- c) Literary art
- d) Performing art
- e) Visual art

Answer: b

9) Theatre is classified as which type of art?

- a) Spatial art
- b) Graphic art
- c) Literary art
- d) Performing art
- e) Visual art

Answer: d

10) Entertainment generally shows us an agreeable mirror of ourselves and our ideas about how the world is or should be.

- a) True
- b) False

Answer: a

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1) In his book The Empty Space, English director Peter Brook states that all that is needed for theatre to occur is an empty space and someone to walk across that space while someone else does what?

Answer: Watches

2) Whether explicit or implicit, what is at the core of drama?

Answer: Conflict

- 3) Which category of theatre includes big musicals as well as comedies and dramas that are intended to be entertaining and profitable? They also contain safe themes, plenty of laughs, and spectacle designed to appeal to a majority of people, thereby filling lots of seats and ideally making lots of money.

Answer: Commercial theatre

- 4) Which category of theatre is designed to support the heritage, customs, and point of view of a particular people, religion, class, country, or community?

Answer: Cultural theatre

- 5) Is it true that the main purpose of art is to reaffirm society's values?

Answer: No

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1) The Greeks could agree amongst themselves what the purpose of art was. How did they view the purpose of art and how are those points of view reflected in today's society?

2) Some people would argue that the arts have no real purpose for society. Some would say that the arts are essential for a society. What are the main arguments for each point of view? Where do you "come down" on this question and why?

3) American novelist Ayn Rand and German playwright Bertolt Brecht would argue that all art is political. What do they mean by that statement? Select a musical that is currently running on Broadway and describe how it is "political."

The Art of the Theatre

CHAPTER 2 STAGE vs. SCREEN

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Bourgeois Theatre
Cleanflicks
Copyright
Corporate Funding
Federal Theatre Project

Government Funding
National Endowment for
the Arts
Nixon, Marni
Nonprofit Company

Patrons
Public Domain
Royalty Payment
Spacey, Kevin
Wood, Natalie

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1) Introduction
 - a) Theatre, film, and TV all have some obvious elements in common, but key differences make theatre unique in this age of screen entertainments

- 2) Audience: No Cell Phone, Please!
 - a) With theatre, communication flows in both directions
 - b) Theatre is risky—A lot can go wrong
 - c) No two performances are exactly the same
 - d) No rating system for theatre
 - e) The unrepeatable nature of live theatre makes watching it like watching a high wire act—something can always go wrong and you never know what you're going to get

- 3) Acting: I'm Ready for My Close-Up
 - a) Legitimate actors
 - i) Must sing their own songs
 - ii) Dance their own dance
 - iii) Perform their own stunts
 - iv) Project their voices
 - v) Must get it right night after night

 - b) Screen Actors
 - i) Can have their voice dubbed
 - ii) Use body doubles
 - iii) Learn their lines just before the scene
 - iv) Can fail time and time again
 - v) Things can be fixed in post production

- 4) Director: There is No Director's Cut in the Theatre
 - a) Film is often called a director's medium
 - b) Stage directors seldom have absolute control over every moment of the production
 - c) In the theatre, there is no "director's cut"

- 5) Funding: Follow the Money
 - a) Funding the Screen
 - i) Each year people all over the world pay tens of billions of dollars to go to the movies, rent DVDs and watch television
 - ii) Make money by selling tickets or commercial time and product placement
 - iii) Costs very little per audience member to produce
 - b) Funding Theatre and Arts
 - i) Often non profit
 - ii) Tickets sales at most nonprofit theatres cover only fifty percent of the cost
 - iii) A play costs more per audience member to produce than any Hollywood movie
 - iv) Theatre is often labor intensive
 - v) To cover expenses nonprofit theatres depend on:

- (1) Patrons
- (2) Corporate funding
- (3) Government funding
- c) National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
 - i) Receives less than 1/100 of one percent (0.001%) of the federal budget.
 - ii) Started by Lyndon B. Johnson
 - iii) Mission is “to foster the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in the United States, and to broaden public access to the arts.”
 - iv) The NEA acts as an independent commission, and NEA panels do not have to get their decisions rubber-stamped by the Senate or the President
 - v) Has given out over 140,000 grants
 - vi) NEA helps the national arts community pump billions into the economy

- 6) Theatre Can Be Expensive
 - a) Production costs for *The Iceman Cometh* on Broadway
 - b) Production costs for *Bug* off Broadway
 - i) These corporations are global and have concentrated ownership
 - ii) Today, because of deregulation, the number is down to six, including:
 - (1) General Electric
 - (2) Viacom
 - (3) News Corporation
 - (4) Disney
 - (5) Time Warner
 - (6) Sony
 - iii) Provincial and locally controlled
 - iv) Those who control the funding have a tendency to control content
 - v) Unlike big Hollywood screen entertainments small local theatres can present a wider diversity of views

- 7) We Hate You (But Please Keep Sending Us Baywatch)
 - a) Cultural invasion through entertainment can have strange effects
 - b) Hollywood movies can easily reach as many 2.6 billion people
 - c) In Britain, U.S. movies account for 95 percent of the box-office revenues with an average of nine of the top ten films at any Cineplex coming from America
 - d) Even in Afghanistan, American television is prevalent, with Kiefer Sutherland’s show *24* being one of the most popular.
 - e) Foreign perceptions of the United States are stereotypes

- 8) Ownership: Copyrights and Cash
 - a) Copyright is a legal guarantee granted by the government
 - b) Playwrights copyright their play
 - c) Because of copyright you cannot change a play without permission from playwright
 - d) Exception - Public domain
 - e) Hollywood screen and television writers are writers for hire, they sell their copyright
 - f) Hollywood screen and television writers are well paid

- g) Most playwrights are poorly paid
- 9) Copyright Law: Infringement, Public Domain & Parody
 - a) The copyright laws of the United States can be complicated and in some cases contradictory
 - b) American companies lose around \$18 billion dollars worldwide every year because of copyright infringement
 - c) Copyright infringement also includes altering copyrighted material without permission
 - d) Cleanflicks
 - e) Parody & 2 Live Crew
 - f) Public domain
- 10) Curtain Call
 - a) Media moguls of massive corporations have a huge effect on our lives
 - b) Theatre can change the world

DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

- **Should the government limit screen entertainments? Should we change the First Amendment? How can we limit violence on screen without stepping on our First Amendment rights?**

Many feel that the United States is drowning in entertainment but has very little art and that this is affecting us as a society. For example, violent incidents were found in as much as seventy-three percent of our television programs, yet it is not nearly so common an occurrence in art. Some feel that the connection between violence on television and violence in our society is every bit as strong as the connection between smoking and lung cancer. More than eighty percent of American adults tell pollsters they think the violence in popular culture contributes to violent acts by young people.³ Groups like the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Institute of Mental Health all say there is a direct link between violent entertainment (including movies, television, and video games) and violent behavior. Congress has been struggling for years in attempts to pass legislation that would limit sex and violence on television and movies without stepping on our First Amendment rights. Recently, Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, wondered aloud whether it is possible to restrict a program—or even to restrict the advertising of a program—featuring murder, suicide, gang violence, and knife fighting and not have the restriction apply to *Romeo and Juliet*.⁴

- **Do you think watching screen entertainments affect your values and opinions?**

³ New York Times, June 27th, 2001

⁴ New York Times, June 27th, 2001

There is evidence that too much entertainment can lead to misconceptions about the world. The Annenberg School of Communication found that teenagers who watch talk shows wildly overestimate the extent of social problems. Teens who watched a steady diet of talk shows guessed that fifty-five percent of girls become pregnant before the age of eighteen. Teens who did not watch talk shows guessed thirty percent. (In actuality the total number of teenage girls in the US who get pregnant is only around four percent.)

- **Thirty years ago, there were about fifty different corporations who controlled our screen entertainments, but today, because of deregulation, there are only about ten. How do you think this affects our screen entertainment?**

“What you are seeing is the creation of a global oligopoly. It happened to the oil and automotive industries earlier this century; now it is happening to the entertainment industry,” says Christopher Dixon, director of media research for Paine Webber. Not only do these corporations own our screen entertainment, but they also control the majority of our media, including magazine publishers, music producers, cable channels, movie production studios, movie theaters, and television shows, stations, and networks. “In some respects, the global media market more closely resembles a cartel than it does the competitive market place found in economics textbooks,” says Robert McChesney, author of *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*.⁵

- **Should tax-dollars go to support the arts?**

This can lead to a good class discussion as Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians debate the issues. Be sure to point out that funding for the arts is down -- a good source for information is “Arts Outposts Stung by Cuts in State Aid” written by Robin Pogrebin in the New York Times, August 1st 2011.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SHORT PAPERS

- **What Has the NEA Funded in Your Area?**

Have the class investigate how NEA money has been spent in your area. What projects have been funded and what percent of that organization’s funding comes from the government?

- **Who Owns What?**

Have the class list their favorite TV show. Now they must investigate who owns that show. For example, saying that it’s owned by NBC is not enough; they must find out what company produces the show for which network(s) and then determine who owns the network(s).

⁵ Rich Media, Poor Democracy, By Robert McChesney Pg. 91

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1) The typical American spends about how many hours per year watching television?
- a) 5,500
 - b) 400
 - c) 1,100
 - d) 1,600
 - e) 20,600

Answer: c

- 2) Actors who work primarily on stage are called...
- a) Sophisticated actors
 - b) Legitimate actors
 - c) Real actors
 - d) Artiste actors
 - e) Charismatic actors

Answer: b

- 3) Many theatre companies do not have stockholders and pay no dividends or federal taxes. These theatres are known as...
- a) Nonspecific theatres
 - b) Free theatres
 - c) Profit tomorrow theatres
 - d) IRS theatres
 - e) Non-profit theatres

Answer: e

- 4) The average taxpayer in which of the following countries pays the least of his or her tax dollars to the arts?
- a) Finland
 - b) Sweden
 - c) Ireland
 - d) Australia
 - e) USA

Answer: e

- 5) Which federal agency in the United States disburses tax dollars to the arts?
- a) Domestic Policy Council
 - b) The Treasury
 - c) National Endowment for the Arts
 - d) Chief Financial Arts Council
 - e) The National Arts Council

Answer: c

6) A playwright's pay is called...

- a) A royalty
- b) A tax write-off
- c) A play fee
- d) The author's fee
- e) The playwright's take

Answer: a

7) This is a legal guarantee granted by the government to an author, composer, choreographer, inventor, publisher, and/or corporation to maintain control and profit from a particular creative work.

- a) Government arts grant
- b) Government arts warranty
- c) Author contract
- d) Copyright
- e) Arts and entertainment pack

Answer: d

8) Which best describes public domain?

- a) Family rated TV
- b) When a copyright expires
- c) Another way of saying "audience."
- d) TV shows about the general public
- e) When the general public decides what will and what will not be on TV

Answer: b

9) Most non-profit theatres do not cover their costs from selling tickets. On average what percentage of their costs *are* covered by selling tickets?

- a) 10%
- b) 25%
- c) 50%
- d) 75%
- e) 99%

Answer: c

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1) Which type of scriptwriters sells their copyrights?

Answer: Screenwriters

2) Which type of scriptwriters does not sell their copyrights?

Answer: Playwrights

3) Besides ticket sales, name three sources of funding for non-profit theatres.

Answers: Corporate funding, patrons, Government funding, and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- 4) If the playwright has been deceased for more than seventy years, the copyright no longer applies. What is this called?

Answer: Public Domain

- 5) The word _____ is often used to describe the collaborative nature of theatre-making.

Answer: ensemble

ESSAY QUESTIONS

- 1) Identify three reasons why the federal government of the United States does not provide the same level of support for the arts that comparable Western democracies do. What would need to happen in this country to change this policy?

- 2) What distinguishes the role of the actor in film from that of the theatre?

- 3) If you were elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives, what policy would you advocate for the role of the federal government in terms of supporting or not supporting the arts