

Writing a Theatre Review

For this task you will be required to write a review based on Into The Woods that you have viewed on Digital Theatre.



Step 1:

- View the play
- Take notes under the following headings (you will be able to fill out some of these answers during the play - the others you will need to reflect on after viewing the play):

PERSONAL RESPONSE:

- Was I stimulated, provoked, inspired, angered, entertained, upset, bored, amused etc during this play? _____
 - Did I enjoy the play? _____
 - Did I learn something? _____
 - Did I feel that it had something to say? What? _____
-
- What were the best and worst aspects of the production?

BEST ASPECTS	WORST ASPECTS

- Would I recommend this play to others? Why?

THE PLOT:

- What was the play about? _____

- Was there a major theme in the play? (e.g. love, hate, family, religion etc). Give examples of this from throughout the play:

- What was the mood of the piece? _____

- Was the ending or plot predictable? _____

- Were there any unexpected twists in the plot?

THE ACTORS:

- Were the characters natural or exaggerated, realistic or stereotypes, studied or spontaneous, shallow or complex? In other words, did they appear to be 'real'?

- How strong was your empathy (understanding, liking, feeling) with particular characters - how strongly did you care for or about them and what was happening to them?

- Was there a protagonist (hero) and antagonist (baddie)? Who?

- Were movements and stances natural or artificial, relaxed or comfortable? Was the acting good? Give examples of scenes where acting was good/bad:

THE DESIGN/SET/COSTUMES:

- Were the designs/set/costume appropriate? What did you like/dislike in the play? Would you make any improvements?

Step 2: Writing the Play Review

After you have viewed the play and written some responses (in the tables above), you must then write your play review.

This should be written in a series of paragraphs, with a catchy title, incorporating the following format:

Introduction:
States the facts about the play - the title, the director, the company, date and place of production and any other useful information.

The Plot:
This is where you write about what the play was about (see your notes above), including the style of play this is. Give your personal impression of the production here, and any other insights into the plot/themes etc.

The Acting:
Write about the acting - what you liked/didn't like. Give examples from the play. Consider movement, mannerisms, gestures, relationships with other character etc.

The Design:
Describe the setting and the costumes (see notes above) and give your judgment on them in light of the play. Comment on the use and effectiveness of lighting and sound.

The Conclusion:
Make any other comments you feel are relevant. Decide whether the play was successful overall. You might mention whether you were entertained or bored here.