
HOW TO TRAIN UP STUDENTS FOR DRAMA

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Abstract:

Drama is considered to be a complete and sophisticated literary genre and of course a major form of literary expression, consisting of both text and performance. In fact, most of the human beings are blessed with cognitive skills and this can be applicable for students who are often found indulging in several activities at school and college level. If any student cherishes to be an artist, first he or she should be exposed to the text. They must inculcate a habit of reading incessantly. They have to be avid readers both for fiction and non-fiction writings. In general most of the students are limited to their textbooks and ignore both classical and contemporary works. It is not good on their part, to be indifferent towards literature. In particular, they have to have a look at either the Greek Drama, or Roman drama, or English drama. As part of the reading and writing skills, a good number of plays should be introduced to students in the classroom. The last hours, leisurely hours and rainy times, and the less number of students on some occasions are simply the best movements for the rendering of plays. It enables students to understand the text and the different modulations of co-students. This creates an awareness of the interdisciplinary possibilities of English studies. Relying on popular plays for public performance is always a painstaking exercise and now it becomes outdated. Classical plays are generally more difficult for young actors to conquer. Instead, students can choose one-act plays or monologues; dramatically there are two different monologues, typically classic, Shakespeare, for example, and something contemporary. The contemporary plots that are written to stand alone are usually the easiest for beginners to handle. They can pick something either an actor some scenes from a play.

Keywords: sophisticated literary, English drama, Roman drama, .etc

Drama is considered to be a complete and sophisticated literary genre and of course a major form of literary expression, consisting of both text and performance. In fact, most of the human beings are blessed with cognitive skills and this can be applicable for students who are often found indulging in several activities at school and college level. In this competitive era, each student should instill into the mind at least some artistic values. They have to have an inclination for art, in particular literature, the most appealing art form. Every student cherishes to be an all rounder and at this crucial juncture, acting in plays and writing for drama is undoubtedly of extra skills. Shakespeare says

All the world's a stage

And all the men and women merely players

They have their exits and their entrances

If you believe in that epigram, we are all actors here, hence drama would be an integral part of human life. Here the world is seen as a theatrical stage and all its inhabitants as players.

To Know the History

Before penetrating into this, we have to take a look at the origin of drama. In fact, the Western drama originated in ancient Greece by the 5th century B.C. Invariably the earliest forms of drama are deeply connected with religious fests. The seeds of Greek drama can be found in the ceremonies held in honor of Dionysus, the god of fertility and wine. In ancient Rome too, drama had its origin in the religious festivals. English drama, which came into existence much later, too formed a part of holy ceremonies in the church. Greek tragedy is one of the earliest forms of drama, which flourished during the fifth century BC. The earliest tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were performed in huge amphitheatres that could seat up to 15000 people. The later Roman tragedies in Western art are of Seneca. Drama in England began as the handmaid of religion in the Middle Ages, namely Miracles, Mystery plays, Moralities, and Interludes. In English literature, the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods witnessed the production of the finest works of English tragedy by renowned playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare and John Webster.

Erudition Is the First Step

If any student cherishes to be an artist, first he or she should be exposed to the text. They must inculcate a habit of reading incessantly. They have to be avid readers both for fiction and non-fiction writings. In general most of the students are limited to their textbooks and ignore both classical and contemporary works. It is not good on their part, to be indifferent towards literature.

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The Ingredients of Drama

Students are advised to discover the rudimentary elements of drama, such as a plot (the final version of the story) characters, dialogues, setting, atmosphere and so on. Be prepared to acquire knowledge of the play, know the character, the plot and the memorize everything. Get a crisp copy of the play and mark any repeats or retards carefully and clearly. However, the drama is mainly made up of a key element called, PLOT, which is fraught with loose plots of Shakespeare or organic plots of John Webster. Teachers should encourage students to discover other kinds of plots such as simple and complex or compound plots.

What Are You For The Stage?

As a matter of fact, the drama alone is a composite art, in which the author, the actor, and the stage manager all contribute to the theatre, the total effect. The budding authors should know one thing, the dramatist does not address his audience directly, but he speaks through his character. Thus, the playwright always speaks through a mouthpiece, never in his own person. Their own opinions should be dismantled, but here is an exception in the plays of G.B.Shaw or Galsworthy, who put forth their personal views on social and political issues. Moreover, a drama sets forth a problem of conflict. Here drama can be divided broadly into two kinds, tragedy and comedy, the one is somber and serious, the other is mirthful and light. According to Aristotle, tragedy purges the emotions through pity and terror. On contrary to this, Comedy moves the audience to laughter, whether it is thoughtful laughter or unalloyed mirth. On the other hand, Tragi-comedy, as we find it in English, was unknown to the Greeks and it was the dramatic counterpart of the prose romance, so popular in the hands of Beaumont and Fletcher and Shakespeare.

A Classroom Booster

As part of the reading and writing skills, a good number of plays should be introduced to students in the classroom. The last hours, leisurely hours and rainy times, and the less number of students on some occasions are simply the best movements for the rendering of plays. It enables students to understand the text and the different modulations of co-students. This creates an awareness of the interdisciplinary possibilities of English studies.

Drama Clubs

We have to recognize the need of literary clubs to put the students at par with their global counterparts. For instance, the goal of a drama club is to make the students cultivate effective powers of expression and comprehension to draw out their latent creativity. The aim of these clubs is to nurture sensitivity towards works of literature. Teachers should develop the powers of critical thinking through a grounding in literature and its appreciation. Theatre majors should head for a serious drama-school for students. Drama games, such as the Martha, Charades, Duck-duck-goose are a good beginning point for breaking the ice. Students must perform a two or three-minute monologue in front of an audience or co-students, demonstrating complete memorization and character-development.

Fests and College Day

Students used to take an active part on the eve of college day and other fests and this can be an apt occasion for students to perform their talents on the stage in the name of drama. At this crucial juncture, the institutional measures are needful to expand a platform for the students to exhibit their theatrical skill.

Radio Medium

Radio is the best medium for promoting the theatre. Hence the targeted students should be listeners to radio programmes, in particular, playlets. Harold Pinter, a staunch devotee of Samuel Beckett continued writing a good number of One-Act plays for the B.B.C. Gone are the Iron curtain days and now we are blessed with information dissemination. Technology is at our fingertips, with the advent of mobile phones. World Radio is available for us and most of these channels give more importance to drama. A tiny radio set becomes a trainer and gives us a good deal of guidelines for presenting the drama. The only thing required is the attention of students and they have to spend their time to listen to radio plays.

One Act Plays

Relying on popular plays for public performance is always a painstaking exercise and now it becomes outdated. Classical plays are generally more difficult for young actors to conquer. Instead, students can choose one-act plays or monologues, dramatically there are two different monologues, typically classic, Shakespeare, for example, and something contemporary. The contemporary plots that are written to stand alone are usually the easiest for beginners to handle. They can pick something either an actor some scenes from a play. Do not choose a very conventional play that requires an accent, unless your modulation is impeccable. Take a look at controversial topics or contemporary issues, such as drug addiction, cyber crimes, road accidents, etc. Based on each students ability, choose contemporary subjects and skits with current topics. Students have to memorize and rehearse the scenes of a play, using appropriate physical gestures and vocal variations to create characterization within the script.

Conclusion

Unfortunately, most of the students are deprived of cultural traits due to the present day system of education. If they are guided in the right way, the legacy of cultural values can be restored. Prepare students for drama is one phenomenon and such a step can lead to the purgation of souls.

References:

- Self Authored