

# Theatre III & IV Honors 2019 Summer Work

D. W. Daniel High School

Whitley

**Due Date:** First Day of Class in August

**Assignment:** Reviews of two (2) live theatrical performances over the course of the summer

**Grading:** 50 point major grade (25 points for each review)

**Rationale:** As in any academic or casual study, viewing real-life, real-world examples and models is an essential part of the learning process. The viewing of examples and models allows us a “jumping off point” from which to form and deepen our understanding of a subject. In this case, our subject is the theatre and our models are live theatrical performances which we will study and discuss often in this course as they allow us to hone our theatrical technique in areas including, but not limited to, acting, directing, designing, implementing technical work, and critiquing.

**Assignment Details:** For this assignment, you will need to attend and review, according to my specifications, two (2) theatrical performances over the course of your summer break. Detailed instructions will be provided below, but each review will reflect on aspects such as plot, acting, design and technical work, and overall impact. This assignment will be due on the first day of class at the start of the school year in August: **two points will be deducted for each class day that the assignment is late.**

- I. Performances: The theatrical performances can be at any level, including school, community, regional (local professional theatres), touring, or Broadway/West End. This is to say, any fully produced play or musical is acceptable. If you are unsure if an event is acceptable, please contact me. Local theatres with summer seasons that can be found online include Clemson Little Theatre, The Market Theatre Co., Electric City Playhouse, Foothills Playhouse, Milltown Players, Centre Stage, Greenville Theatre, and Warehouse Theatre. Additionally, The Market Theatre Co. (Anderson) and Warehouse Theatre (Greenville) both produce FREE Shakespeare in the Park in their respective cities during the summer. Contact me for other performance opportunities.
- II. Proof of Attendance: As proof of attendance, you are required to provide a program, and/or ticket, and/or picture of you at the performance with your review. **Without one of these proofs of attendance, the review will not be accepted. No exceptions.**
- III. Reviews: Each of your reviews should take the form of a typed paper in multi-paragraph form. You should write in the first person. These papers should be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font, double spaced, with one (1) inch margins on all sides of the page. Each review should be at least two pages in length, but not exceed three pages. **Reviews should be submitted printed and stapled, with paper and proof of attendance.** If access to technology is an issue, please see me. Each review should cover the following aspects:
  - A. Plot & Production Overview: The review should begin with a brief overview of the plot of the production and provide essential information such as the venue and producing organization, the director, the date of the show, and other pertinent information.

- B. **Acting/Singing/Dancing:** The review should include a section detailing your reaction to the acting, singing, and dancing in a performance (or any combination of these, depending on what the performance entails). This section can answer questions such as: Which actor was your favorite and why? How was the projection and articulation of the actors? Was the acting believable? Was the singing and dancing of the actors precise and technical? Did the actor use their body well in portraying their character?
  - C. **Design:** The review should include a section detailing your reaction to the various areas of design of the production including scenic (set), lighting, costume, makeup, prop, and sound designs. This section can answer questions such as: What was your initial reaction when viewing the scenery (sets)? Did the scenery accurately and effectively communicate the mood of the play? Did the lighting accurately and effectively communicate the mood of the play? What were your reactions to the costumes and makeup? How did sound design affect the production and its mood and meaning? Were props realistic and fitting to the production? Were scene transitions smooth?
  - D. **Overall Impact:** The review should conclude with a section outlining your overall reaction to the production and the impact you felt that it made on you and the rest of the audience. This section can answer questions such as: What was your favorite moment of the show? What stood out about this particular production? What did you learn from the show? Would you see this show again or tell others to see it? Why or why not?
- IV. **Rubric:** Five (5) points will be awarded for thoroughness, thought, and detail in each of the four sections just previously outlined in Section III. The final five (5) points will be awarded based on the paper being correctly formatted, printed, and free of grammatical and spelling errors. This will result in a total of 25 points for each review.
- V. **Final Tips:** Remember to backup all opinions with valid reasons and examples. Opinions based merely on “feeling” will not be assessed. Remain fair and sincere when viewing and reviewing the show. Be constructive in nature, providing critique for weak points, while also praising positives of the show. And finally, enjoy the show! Don’t get caught in the trap of being overly critical.

### **Overview of Theatre III & IV Honors Coursework and Expectations**

Theatre III & IV Honors are year-long, elective courses focusing on theatrical arts and exploring areas of study including acting, directing, design, technical work, and critique. Additionally, theatrical history and theory are explored, as well as current topics in theatre. This course is heavily production based, with each quarter focusing on a different theatrical production of one kind or another produced by the students of the course. These productions could include, but are not limited to, one-act plays, full-length plays, scenes studies, interactive theatrical experiences, theatre for young audiences, and musicals. Teamwork and collaboration is a must. A final aspect of the course to be highlighted is the responsibility of students to attend outside performances of live theatre throughout the school year. While some of these performances may take place at Daniel, attendance at local theatre performances will be a must. The requirement will likely be viewing one live performance a quarter and issues with obtaining a ticket will be taken care of by me. Being an honors course, expectations for work and commitment in this course are high. Students must have an interest and commitment to theatre and an openness to grow and learn in order to be successful in the course. I am very happy to say that I believe that the latter is an overwhelmingly common trait in students at Daniel. Please contact me at [andrewwhitley@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:andrewwhitley@pickens.k12.sc.us) with any questions.