

## THEATRE GLOSSARY

### *\*Process Component definition*

<b>Acting techniques</b>	specific skills, pedagogies, theories, or methods of investigation used by an actor to prepare for a theatre performance
<b>Believability</b>	theatrical choices thought to be “true” based upon an understanding of any given fictional moment, interpretation of text, and/or human interaction
<b>Character traits</b>	observable embodied actions that illustrate a character’s personality, values, beliefs, and history
<b>Conflict</b>	the problem, confrontation, or struggle in a scene or play; conflict may include a character against him or herself, a character in opposition to another character, a character against nature, a character against society, or a character against the supernatural
<b>Creative drama</b>	a process-centered, non-exhibitional approach to drama intended to benefit the performers themselves; story drama and process drama are two types of creative drama
<b>Devised drama</b>	creation of an original performance piece by an ensemble
<b>*Develop</b>	generate new work, ideas, or perspectives through drama processes and theatre experiences that prompt experimentation
<b>Dialogue</b>	a conversation between two or more characters
<b>Dramatic play</b>	make-believe where children naturally assign and accept roles, then act them out
<b>*Empathize</b>	communicate how and why responsiveness to relationships between self, others, drama processes, play, and theatre experiences may be used to make meaning of the human experience
<b>*Envision/Conceptualize</b>	imagine, research, and explore through drama processes and theatre experiences to discover diverse creative ideas
<b>*Evaluate</b>	analyze perspectives, articulate evidence, and critique drama processes and theatre experiences
<b>Focus</b>	commitment by a participant (an actor, technician, director) to remain in the scope of the project or to stay within the world of the play
<b>Genre</b>	relating to a specific kind or type of drama and theatre such as a tragedy, drama, melodrama, comedy, or farce
<b>Gesture</b>	an expressive and planned movement of the body or limbs

**Given circumstances**

the underlying actions and events that have happened before the play, story, or devised piece begins

**Guided drama experience**

a leader guides participants during a process drama, story drama, or creative drama experience (see the definitions) through side-coaching, narration, and prompting; the action of the drama does not stop in order for the leader to support the students; facilitator may guide participants in or out of role

**Improvise**

the spontaneous, intuitive, and immediate response of movement and speech; a distinction can be made between spontaneous improvisation, which is immediate and unrehearsed, and prepared improvisation, which is shaped and rehearsed

**Imaginary elsewhere**

an imagined location which can be historical, fictional, or realistic

**Imagined worlds**

an imaginary world created collectively by participants in a drama experience

**Inner thoughts**

the underlying and implied meaning or intentions in the character's dialogue or actions (also known as subtext)

**\*Interpret**

theatre artists assess their own work and the work of others, using critical thinking skills

**\*Interrelate**

communicate a critical awareness of how relationships between drama processes, theatre experiences, and the world are made

**Motivation**

reasons why a character behaves or reacts in a particular way in a scene or play

**Non-representational materials**

objects which can be transformed into specific props through the imagination

**Objective**

a goal or particular need or want that a character has within a scene or play

**Plot**

a narrative as revealed through the action and/or dialogue; traditionally, a plot has the elements of exposition, inciting incident, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution or falling action

**\*Prepare**

develop and apply skill and processes to enhance a performance or design

**Process drama**

a non-linear, episodic, process-centered, improvised form of drama in which teacher and students are in-role exploring and reflecting on an issue, story, theme, problem, or idea in a non-exhibitional format that is intended to benefit the performers themselves

**Production elements**

technical elements selected for use in a specific production, including sets, sound, costumes, lights, music, props, and make-up, as well as elements specific to the production such as puppets, masks, special effects, or other story telling devices/concepts

**\*Reflect**

participants and observers acquire personal understanding about the human experience from drama processes and theatre experiences

**\*Rehearse**

refine new work through play, drama processes and theatre experiences using critical analysis and experimentation

**\*Research**

inquire into the historical, theoretical, literary, and performance works of others as a way to make critically informed artistic choices

**\*Select**

make artistic choices to convey meaning

**Scripted drama**

a piece of writing for the theatre that includes a description of the setting, a list of the characters, the dialogue, and the action of the characters

**Script analysis**

the study of a script to understand the underlying structure and themes of the play's story, and the motives and objectives of its characters

**\*Share/Present**

communicate realized artistic ideas in a formal/informal presentation of drama processes or theatre experiences

**Staging**

patterns of movement in a scene or play including, for example, stage crosses, entrances, and exits which help to convey meaning

**Story drama**

episodic, process-centered, improvised form of drama that uses existing literature as a starting point for drama exploration, the drama explores implied moments (before, after, or within) that may not exist in the story and is presented in a non-exhibitional format that is intended to benefit the performers themselves

**Story elements**

characters, setting, dialogue, and plot that create a story

**Style**

the use of a specific set of characteristic or distinctive techniques such as realism, expressionism, epic theatre, documentary theatre, or classical drama; style may also refer to the unique artistic choices of a particular playwright, director, or actor

**Tactic**

the means by which a character seeks to achieve their objective, the selection of tactics are based on the obstacle presented; in acting and directing a tactic refers to a specific action verb

**Technical elements**

the elements of spectacle such as sets, sound, costume, lights, music, props, and makeup used to create a unified and meaningful design for a theatrical production

**Theatrical conventions**

practices and/or devices that the audience and actors accept in the world of the play even when it is not realistic, such as a narrator, flashback, or an aside

**Theme**

the aspect of the human condition under investigation in the drama; it can be drawn from unifying topics or questions across content areas