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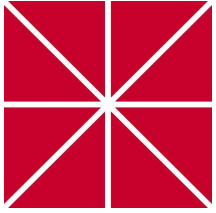
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“I Can Take an Empty Space and Call it a Bare Stage”: Searching for a Through-Line in the Diverse Roles of the Theatre Director

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Who is the Director?

“I can take an empty space and call it a bare stage. A man walks across this empty space whilst someone else is watching, and that is all that is needed for an act of theatre to be engaged.”

-Peter Brook, *The Empty Space*

The director’s part in any theatrical production is multifaceted. My objective in this thesis is to examine and define the role of the director in a variety of different theatrical contexts both through research and practical application of my skills.



Doubt rehearsal

Methodology

I investigated directorial roles through two different approaches: I researched the directing philosophies of acclaimed directors Peter Brook and Anne Bogart, and concurrently directed three diverse projects throughout the semester: staged readings of both John Patrick Shanley’s **Doubt: A Parable** and the newly devised **Trojan Whores** by Isabelle Grimm; and assistant directed Nicholas Avila in Chapman’s mainstage production of **Anna in the Tropics** by Nilo Cruz.

“When you watch an artist work, you watch them throw themselves off balance and then fight for balance. And that is a heroic act”

-Anne Bogart, *Balancing Act*

Throughout running and participating in such a diverse collection of rehearsal processes and performances over the course of the semester, I was able to implement skills I gained from my research as well as learn by doing and adjusting the directing techniques in which I had previously been trained.

Conclusions



Trojan Whores rehearsal

The director is a storyteller. They must conceive of the overall vision, guide and collaborate with others in order to achieve this vision, synthesize all creative input into cohesion, and make the story relevant to its audience community.

“Truth can never be defined, nor grasped, but the theatre is a machine which enables all its participants to taste an aspect of truth within a moment.”

-Peter Brook, *The Open Door*