

Chapter 02 The Audience

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The famous sculpture of Winged Victory from Samothrace is used by the text
 - A. to demonstrate the transitory nature of art.
 - B. to demonstrate the immediacy of art.
 - C.** to contrast the lasting nature of some art to that of others.
 - D. to illustrate ancient artists' conception of dramatic postures.

2. A contemporary trend in musical theatre is a genre referred to as the _____, in which a story is written around already popular rock music.
 - A. music review
 - B. top-40 musical
 - C.** jukebox musical
 - D. vaudeville musical

3. At the heart of the theatre experience is the
 - A. director-actor relationship.
 - B.** actor-audience relationship.
 - C. audience-director relationship.
 - D. actor-author relationship.

4. Which of the following best describes the way audiences participate in theatrical performances?
 - A. physically
 - B. mentally
 - C.** vicariously
 - D. physiologically

5. The degree of separation between the object or an event, which an artist creates and the audience observes, is called

- A. aesthetic distance.
- B. intellectual separation.
- C. reinforcement.
- D. alienation.

6. The putting aside of all literal and practical considerations in order to enter into the world of the drama is called

- A. the willing suspension of disbelief.
- B. aesthetic distance.
- C. anti-censorship.
- D. theatricality.

7. Because of the power of an audience's mental and emotional participation in a theatrical event, those in authority may fear the effect theatre can have. This fear sometimes results in

- A. subsidy.
- B. censorship.
- C. aesthetic distance.
- D. the outlawing of disbelief.

8. A main difference between a critic and a reviewer is that a reviewer

- A. is restricted by time and space.
- B. has more historical knowledge.
- C. does not usually make a personal judgment about the production.
- D. All these answers are correct.

9. _____ is the coordinator of all the elements of the production and is responsible for the unifying vision of the production.

- A. Audience
- B. Playwright
- C. Director
- D. Producer

10. Which of the following questions does NOT address one of the main criteria by which a critic judges a production?

- A. What is being attempted?
- B. Have the intentions been achieved?
- C.** How will the review affect the production?
- D. Was the attempt worthwhile?

11. One characteristic of _____ is that each performance is unique and occurs in the presence of an audience.

- A.** theatre
- B. film
- C. both theatre and film

12. One characteristic of _____ is that the entertainment can be edited.

- A. theatre
- B.** film
- C. both theatre and film

13. Art forms that exist space and are created to last over time.

- A.** spatial arts
- B. temporal arts
- C. both A and B

14. Art forms that exist for only a specific period of time.

- A. spatial arts
- B.** temporal arts
- C. both A and B

15. Also called _____ this is the blueprint for a production in which the playwright transforms the raw material—the incident, the biographical event, the myth—into a drama, a sequence of events that features characters speaking and interacting with one another.

- A. screenplay
- B. dialogue
- C. script**

16. Because of the availability of new technology such as YouTube and personal websites, _____ represent a new source of theatre criticism.

- A. reviewers
- B. bloggers**
- C. critics

True / False Questions

17. Theatre employs such an in-depth collaborative process that an audience is not essential to the completed production.

FALSE

18. Dramaturg comes from a French word for "dramatic advisor."

FALSE

19. It is wise to always agree with a theatre critic when deciding to purchase a ticket for a play or musical.

FALSE

20. The audience's desire to believe in the reality of what is happening onstage is called willing suspension of disbelief.

TRUE

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21. The size and type of theatre space affects audience perception; therefore, this factor makes a big difference to both actors and the audience.

TRUE

22. If a reviewer dislikes a particular production, it is probably best to avoid it.

FALSE

23. The experienced theatre critic tends to look at a particular theatrical event independent of other factors and attempts to avoid putting theatre into a larger context.

FALSE

Essay Questions

24. Explain the essential differences between the literary and visual arts on the one hand and the performing arts on the other. What do the various differences allow one art to do better than other arts? What differences prevent an art form from doing certain things?

Answers will vary.

25. How might the presence of contemporary pop music composers like Duncan Sheik (*Spring Awakening*) or Elton John (*Aida/Billy Elliot/The Lion King/Lestat*) affect the audience dynamic in contemporary musical theatre? Do you think this kind of contemporary music dynamic has ever happened previously in theatrical history?

Answers will vary.

26. Describe the transitory nature of theatre and the other performing arts and how they are different from literature and the visual arts.

Answers will vary.