

Drama & Theatre Preparation Work 2022

1. Read the statement below:

“21st Century Theatre has nothing to say to young people. The ‘Netflix Generation’ do not care about live theatre”

Write 500 words (please do not go over) which discusses the above statement in relation to any play you have seen in performance.

2. Read the text on the next page. It is from the play ‘The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui’ By Bertolt Brecht.

Start by researching the play. What was it about? What was the message it was trying to send to an audience? Who was Brecht and what was his overall Theatrical and artistic aim/intention.

Once you have read and understood that information attempt the task below:

Annotate and label the text with how you could direct the actors when staging this scene to give impact to a modern audience.

Prologue

The Announcer steps before the curtain. Large notices are attached to the curtain: 'New developments in dock subsidy scandal' ... 'The true facts about Dogsborough's will and confession' ... 'Sensation at warehouse fire trial' ... 'Friends murder gangster Ernesto Roma' ... 'Ignatius Dullfeet blackmailed and murdered' ... 'Cicero taken over by gangsters'. Behind the curtain popular dance music.

The Announcer: Friends, tonight we're going to show –

Pipe down, you boys in the back row!

And, lady, your hat is in the way! –

Our great historical gangster play

Containing, for the first time, as you'll see

The truth about the scandalous dock subsidy.

Further we give you, for your betterment

Dogsborough's confession and testament.

Arturo Ui's rise while the stock market fell.

The notorious warehouse fire trial. What a sell!

The Dullfeet murder! Justice in a coma!

Gang warfare: the killing of Ernesto Roma!

All culminating in our stunning last tableau:

Gangsters take over the town of Cicero!

Brilliant performers will portray

The most eminent gangsters of our day.

You'll see some dead and some alive

Some by-gone and others that survive

Some born, some made – for instance, here we show

The good old honest Dogsborough!

(Old Dogsborough steps before the curtain.)

His hair is white, his heart is black.

Corrupt old man, you may step back.

(Dogsborough bows and steps back.)

The next exhibit on our list

Is Givola –

(Givola has stepped before the curtain.)

– the horticulturist.

His tongue's so slippery he'd know how

To sell you a billy-goat for a cow!

Short, says the proverb, are the legs of lies.

Look at his legs, just use your eyes.

(Givola steps back limping.)

Now to Emanuele Giri, the super-clown.

Come out, let's look you up and down!

(Giri steps before the curtain and waves his hand at the audience.)

One of the greatest killers ever known!

Okay, beat it!

(Giri steps back with an angry look.)

And lastly Public Enemy Number One

Arturo Ui. Now you'll see

The biggest gangster of all times

Whom heaven sent us for our crimes

Our weakness and stupidity!

(Arturo Ui steps before the curtain and walks out along the footlights.)

Doesn't he make you think of Richard the Third?

Has anybody ever heard

Of blood so ghoulishly and lavishly shed

Since wars were fought for roses white and red?

In view of this the management

Has spared no cost in its intent

To picture his spectacularly vile

Manoeuvres in the grandest style.

But everything you'll see tonight is true.

Nothing's invented, nothing's new

Or made to order just for you.

The gangster play that we present

Is known to our whole continent.

(While the music swells and the sound of a machine-gun mingles with it, the Announcer retires with an air of bustling self-importance.)