

TR306 – Theatre History and Drama, Renaissance-Modern Production History Project

THE PROJECT: You are required to document a stage history of an assigned play, beginning with the first production and going through the most recent productions. To do so, you must develop research skills necessary to be able to find out about productions from the past. You also must develop the ability to identify the most significant productions in the history and demonstrate why they are particularly noteworthy and/or influential. You must uncover details about each production and analyze what can be learned from this information to apply to contemporary productions. Note that to accomplish this successfully, you must obtain a copy of the play and read it from the perspective of a theatre artist.

THE WORK TO HAND IN: You must hand in a paper that outlines your analysis and delivers your conclusions. The paper should include a list of all the productions you have uncovered (where, when), and it also must go into detail about at least three influential productions. Important information to include in the narrative: Who were the people involved? What do we know about the audience? What do we know about how the production was received by the audience? What did the production emphasize in terms of interpretation and concept? How and why was it especially noteworthy and/or influential? Conclude the paper by arguing what we, as contemporary theatre artists, learn about the play by learning about these previous productions. Explain how we can we apply these learnings to the choices we make in present-day productions. Please include any surviving visuals from productions that you are able to uncover. ***All sources for your information must be thoroughly documented. Information from un reputable or non-authoritative sources will not be considered valid.*** There is no specific length requirement, but it is difficult to imagine someone completing the paper in less than 6 pages.

THE GRADE: The project is worth 200 possible points and the grade will be based on the amount of information you are able to uncover in your research to include in the production history and the extent of your analysis of that history. It will also be based on the effectiveness of your written work in communicating your findings.

THE TIME FRAME: All projects are due on October 21st and will be discussed in class that day. Accordingly, you have approximately seven weeks for the research, preparation, and completion of this project. ***Research will not be easy; you should begin within the next several days to ensure that you are able to track down the necessary resources (books, articles, etc.) in order to complete the project on time. Expect that you will have to use special library services such as inter-library loan.***

Get started early and have fun!!!