

Unit Title: Intro to Technical Theatre

Grade Level: 9-12

Subject Area: Theatre (Intro To Theatre)

Duration/Length/Number of class periods: 7 Weeks

Description:

This unit is an introduction to technical theatre and the collaborative process used to create a cohesive theatrical production. Students will be introduced to the design process for lighting, scenery, sound, costume/hair & make, and props, as well as the process by which a production is created/designed. This unit will culminate in a group design presentation for the play *It Was Fun While It Lasted* by Laura Eason.

Established Goals :

MN Theatre Standards

4.9.2.3.2 CREATE, Create original artistic work. Explain the collaboration and interdependent roles of the actor, director, playwright, designer, and community.

4.9.2.4.3 CREATE, Revise and complete original artistic work. Refine a technical design (including available technology) to support the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted work.

4.9.3.6.2 PERFORM, Make artistic choices in order to convey meaning through performance. Research and apply technical elements (using available technology) to create a design for a production.

4.9.4.8.2 RESPOND, Evaluate artistic work by applying criteria. Evaluate the aesthetics of the production elements displayed in the work.

ISTE Standards

I. Creativity and Innovation, B: create original works as a means of personal or group expression.

IV. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making, A: identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.

What [Enduring Understandings](#) are desired?

How do decisions made about technical elements affect an audience's understanding of a performance/piece of theatre?

What [Essential Questions](#) will be considered?

- ★ What is a "technical element" in theatre?
- ★ Explain the collaboration and interdependent roles of the director and designers (from standard 4.9.2.3.2).
- ★ Who makes decisions about technical elements in a theatrical production?
- ★ What is the process a production team uses to create a theatrical production?
- ★ How do technical elements work together to create a cohesive theatrical production?
- ★ How do production teams evaluate the success/failure of a theatrical production?

Students will know / be able to:

- ★ Explain the design process (steps) for lighting, sets, sound, props, and costumes.
- ★ Define the terms “World of the Play” and “Given Circumstances and how they are used by the director and designers of a production.
- ★ “Mine” a script for clues about the World of the Play/Given Circumstances as it relates to the design process.
- ★ Collaborate with other students on a design process for *It Was Fun While it Lasted* by Laura Eason.
- ★ Articulate and defend artistic choices made during the design process for *It Was Fun While it Lasted* by Laura Eason.
- ★ Reflect on artistic choices and their effect on the audience’s understanding of a performance/piece of theatre.

Description	Formative	Summative	Introductory Activity	Learning Activity	Student Technology Used	Teacher Technology Used	ISTE Standards
Technical Elements Presentation (Google Slides) And Vocabulary (Google Docs)			X			X	
Watch two productions of the same play (with extremely different designs/WOP)(Jamboard)			X		X		X
Discussion of productions (Digital Four Corners Discussion)	X			X	X	X	X
Read <i>It Was Fun While it Lasted</i> by Laura Eason and dialogue (Ideazboard)			X		X	X	
WOP Analysis (Group) (Google Docs)	X			X	X	X	X
Introduction to the Design Process (Google Slides)			X			X	X
Individual Design Project (Tinkercad , Canva , Google Slides , Unsplash , pixabay , morguefile , gettyimages , https://scenicandlighting.com/colorlab/)	X			X	X	X	X
Final Design Presentation (SWAY)		X		X	X	X	X
Class Feedback on Design Presentations (GoSoapBox)		X		X	X	X	X
Group Self-Assessment (post presentation) (Padlet)		X		X	X	X	X

Materials, tools and resources:

- ★ Google Slides Presentation [Beginning Acting Presentation](#)
- ★ Vocabulary: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xDeAmQNPBHKbzRE0kHu5Na5ODLKVZYHGjn6YRX7MUKA/edit?usp=sharing>
- ★ Placeholder: I need to find the productions I am going to show in class (for week 1). I will need to check on subscriptions to legally available filmed theatrical productions. Possibilities include Digital Theatre Plus, Broadway HD, Royal Shakespeare/The Globe, and PBS.
- ★ Jamboard: <https://jamboard.google.com/>
- ★ Discussion of Productions Tool: [Digital 4 Corners - TEMPLATE](#)

- ★ Play Reading Dialogue Tool: <https://ideaboardz.com/>
- ★ Design Imagery Research: <https://unsplash.com/>, <https://pixabay.com/>, <https://morguefile.com/>
- ★ WOP/Given Circumstances: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aGAhdYIRN43Wz05CVM1DNSExcgk79tmnHg-4LDaSay4/edit?usp=sharing>
- ★ Introduction to the Design Process: (for each technical element) (Placeholder, need to build this presentation in Google Slides)
- ★ Individual Design Projects:
 - Lights: <https://unsplash.com/>, <https://pixabay.com/>, <https://morguefile.com/>, <https://www.gettyimages.com/> Tinkercad: <https://www.tinkercad.com/>, Online lighting toolkits: <https://scenicandlighting.com/colorlab/>, <https://scenicandlighting.com/lightlab/>, <http://scenicandlighting.com/gobos/>
 - Set: <https://unsplash.com/>, <https://pixabay.com/>, <https://morguefile.com/>, <https://www.gettyimages.com/>, Tinkercad: <https://www.tinkercad.com/>
 - Sound: <http://freemusicarchive.org/> (music) and <https://freesound.org/> (sfx)
 - Costumes: <https://unsplash.com/>, <https://pixabay.com/>, <https://morguefile.com/>, <https://www.gettyimages.com/>
 - Props: <https://unsplash.com/>, <https://pixabay.com/>, <https://morguefile.com/>, <https://www.gettyimages.com/>
- ★ Presenting individual designs: [Google Slides: Free Online Presentations for Personal Use](#)
 - (Placeholder) I need to vet tech element specific technology tools/websites for Set, Sound, Costumes, and Props to add to the resources students will be provided with (similar to what the sceniclighting.com website provides for lighting exploration). This will take some time so I will add these sites as I vet them.
- ★ Final Design Presentation Tool: <https://sway.office.com/>
- ★ Class Feedback Tool: <https://www.gosoapbox.com/>
- ★ Group Self-Assessment Tool: <https://padlet.com/>

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Additional credit given to: Liz Behnke and Anna Marie Schmidt

Unit Breakdown:

Week 1:

Technical Elements Presentation, View productions, Discussion of Technical Elements in each production.

Week 2:

Read Play, WOP Analysis, Introduction to the Design Process

Week 3:

Set 101, Props 101

Week 4:

Lighting 101

Week 5:

Costumes 101, Sound 101

Week 6:

Collaborative Design Process for play, individual designs for each tech element (each group will have one lighting, sound, set, props, and costume designer)

Week 7:

Final Design Presentations, Class Feedback, Group Self Assessment