

Theatre Books

April 2010

Act Now ... and Improvise!

Don Hill

64 pages

£5.00

978-0-85343-596-9

Don Hill begins with the premise that we learn more when we are having fun. Through this series of enjoyable exercises, the most inexperienced group of actors can learn how to act, extend their abilities, gain confidence and trust and discover the importance of imagination, discipline, teamwork and playing true. Each exercise has an outline of what should happen, what can happen and what lessons should be learnt. Ideal for teachers and new groups.

The Actor's Art and Craft

Rona Laurie

140 pages

£8.50

978-0-85343-595-2

Rona Laurie, Director of the *Teacher's Licentiate* at the *Guildhall School of Music and Drama* and Tutor at the *Actor's Centre*, draws on her wide experience as an actor and tutor in this analysis of the art and craft of acting. *The Actor's Art and Craft* concentrates on honing the actor's skills: how to use voice, modulation and movement in characterisation. Analyses of Shakespeare, comedy, farce and modern plays give an insight into these genres. Rona evaluates some of our finest actors and what makes them exceptional.

"... informed evaluation of actors and their art ... a welcome source of background knowledge about the complex technicalities involved in the personal presentation of a polished performance." - *Speech and Drama*

"Full of interesting observation and perception." - *Sir John Gielgud*

Adaptable Stage Costume for Women

Elizabeth Russell

96 pages

£7.00

57 illustrations and layouts

978-0-85343-558-7

Using a basic bodice and skirt, the author shows how additions and accessories adapt the basic costume to any period, from Saxon to Victorian. With instructions and patterns for additions and accessories, such as wimples and bustles. This 100-in-1 costume is an economical way to clothe the whole company.

"... this practical book is a god-send to all costumiers and an economic lifesaver to educational theatre producers."

- Educational Theatre News

Auditioning: A Practical Guide

Rona Laurie

64 pages

£4.50

978-0-85343-585-3

Auditioning is aimed at drama students. Rona Laurie covers the choice and preparation of audition material: with instructions on performance; audition speeches for drama schools; and material for children's theatre auditions.

"It equips young people to cope with a situation for which there is rarely adequate guidance and gives an honest picture of the perils and possibilities of professional auditions." - *Speech and Drama*

Beginnings in Drama

E. Martin Browne

32 pages

£2.50

978-0-7155-0232-7

An excellent primer for children and newcomers to the stage.

Costume Language: A Dictionary of Dress Terms

Stephanie Davies

184 pages

Paper - 978-0-85956-069-6 - £12.50 Cased - 978-0-85956-066-5 - £17.50

Finding that few costume books provided her with the information she needed for her coursework, Stephanie compiled her own. Lavishly illustrated with her own sketches of the costumes and

sculptures she researched, the book ranges through the centuries, giving concise information. Lists couturiers, designers, collections and exhibitions. Stephanie Davies was a Fellow of the *Royal Society of Arts*. She was also Head of Art at *Malvern Girls'* and *Cheltenham Ladies' Colleges*.

Drama Improvised

Kenneth Pickering

60 pages Second Edition £5.00

978-0-85343-612-6

Educational drama makes heavy demands on teachers' energy and time. This book suggests ways to stimulate work for children, by using improvisation in actor training, role-play, drama therapy and the study of Shakespeare. This innovative work includes the play, *Radical Will*, which brings Shakespeare to life for today's children by presenting the characters and scenarios in a light with which they can empathise. Dr Pickering is a director of the *Institute for the Arts in Therapy and Education* and Chief Examiner in Speech and Drama for the *London College of Music*.

Drama in the Cathedral

Kenneth Pickering

384pp

29 Illustrations

Second Edition

£14.95

978-0-85343-627-0

This revised edition of Kenneth Pickering's study of the development of the Canterbury Festival and the resurgence of religious drama, is published to coincide with the author's appearance as Becket in a major new production of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*.

At the start of the twentieth century there was a great deal of hostility from the Church towards drama. Dr Pickering explores the changing attitudes which enabled the Dean of Canterbury to establish the Festival and lay the foundations for religious drama to play the important role in the spreading of the Christian message which it does today. A must for all those with an interest, either general or academic, in religious drama and the modern development of the stage.

Further Steps in Stagecraft

Susan Richmond

72 pages

£4.50

978-0-7155-0250-1

The sequel to *Textbook of Stagecraft* and, although they are of value on their own, together they provide a complete study course. The exercises given, such as inflection and characterisation, are designed to stretch the student's abilities even further.

An Illustrated Guide to Staging History

Book One: Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Medieval Theatre

Mary Woollard

304 pages

681 illustrations

£14.50

978-0-85343-624-9

Getting the staging right for period plays is difficult, but it is essential for proper realisation. Mary has drawn on her many years of experience as a drama teacher to provide invaluable help on getting the period detail right. The first section details the common principles, such as types of stage, columns, scenic decoration and the making of props. The second section takes each period in turn and analyses the development of theatre, architecture and stage sets. Following chapters give detailed drawings of the dress, armour, furniture, pottery and decoration. With this book you will always be able to find the answer to questions like: "What did Egyptian chairs look like", "What style crozier did a medieval bishop carry?"

Improvisation: Project and Practice

Robert Newton

32 pages

£2.50

978-0-85343-525-9

This book is the result of work at *The Theatre Club*, where Robert Newton pursued the premise that improvisation is a tool for training actors, rather than an end to itself. Robert Newton used his students responses to polish the benefits of improvisation.

A Junior Textbook of Stagecraft

Frances Marsden

90 pages

£4.50

978-0-7155-0175-7

Mrs Marsden, an experienced teacher, has adapted Susan Richmond's books on stagecraft for use as drama source books. She shows how to stimulate children through drama exercises and a section on play production.

The Musical Director

William Hoare

112 pages

£5.00

978-0-85343-593-8

Dr Hoare discusses the history of opera; the art of conducting; choosing the show; orchestral decisions; learning and preparation; the performance and the get-out. The author conducted more than 40 works during his life-long involvement with amateur operatics.

"A painstaking work which covers every area of the musical director's role, not only that which is visible to the audience ... but the whole process of study and preparation." - Amateur Stage

Musicals: The Guide to Amateur Production

Peter. A. Spencer

240 pages

26 illustrations

Second Edition

£9.95

978-0-85343-592-1

The author's extensive experience will help you get the best results from your group. He explores every aspect of staging musicals: finances; show and cast selection; blocking moves (with examples from *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Calamity Jane*); technical aspects; school productions; and legal matters.

Peter Spencer has directed over 200 musicals, making him one of Britain's most respected amateur directors. He has adjudicated at many festivals and taught at the NODA Operatic Summer School.

"Careful study and constant reference to this most readable book will improve the quality of the work of every director of an amateur musical, be he a professional or not." - The Amateur Stage

On English Costume

Mary Kelly

56 pages

Illustrated

£3.50

978-0-7155-0290-7

Shows how and why costume has changed between the Saxon and Victorian periods. Concentrates on everyday costume, so the costumier has expert help in dressing the ensemble.

Playing Period Plays

Lynn Oxenford

318 pages

47 illustrations

£9.50

978-0-85343-549-5

Parts I - IV available separately: £4.50 each

The intricacies of period plays pose problems for actors and directors. *Playing Period Plays* how to express the spirit of the age through the acting style; costumes; dances; instruments; manners; movement; and music. Includes acting and mime exercises and suggestions for pageant and arena work.

"The information has been carefully chosen to enrich presentation. It is tempting to recommend this book ... to the history teacher as well." - TES

The Producer and the Actor

Frank Newman

45 pages

£2.50

978-0-85343-074-2

The producer or actor who has yet to find a sound method of work will find this book invaluable. However, the more experienced will be glad to have the basic principles restated.

The Single Source of all Filth: The Jeremy Collier Controversy

David Self

192 pages

£9.95

978-0-85343-626-3

In the 1680s, a non-juring priest, Jeremy Collier, launched a vitriolic attack on the excesses of Restoration Theatre. In doing so, he started a vicious pamphlet war which was to change the history of drama. Puritanical in his views, Collier attacked the profanity and debauchery of the stage and demanded its abolition. In response, several playwrights, including Vanbrugh and Congreve, wrote in defence of drama whilst conceding that its excesses needed taming.

A huge number of pamphlets were written and, although Collier's arguments were often flawed and over-zealous, he caught the mood of the times and as a direct result Vanbrugh and Congreve's careers were cut short. His final victory came with the establishment of the Office of Lord Chamberlain to censor plays - which lasted until the 1960s. This important chapter in the development of the modern theatre has escaped close academic scrutiny and for the first time all the major pamphlets and plays written during this war are reproduced here for students, both serious and amateur, of theatre history.

Stage Management and Theatrecraft

Hendrik Baker

392 pages 100 illustrations £11.50 978-0-85343-556-3

The author discusses the development of a stage production; marking scripts; rehearsals; the stage crew; the stage; first nights and running the play. This edition discusses the *National Theatre*, the restoration of Victorian theatres, the design of new acting areas for the open stage and the application of microprocessing to lighting control. Hendrik Baker used his own work as designer, stage manager and director to illustrate this excellent guide to stage management. Useful for students and amateurs.

"The stage manager has a craft as highly-developed and complex as that of a director or chief electrician. He is the one who must unite the technical and creative aspects of play production. Baker's handbook clarifies his importance ... admirably thorough and detailed and also readable." - The Library Journal

A Textbook of Stagecraft

Susan Richmond

130 pages £4.50 978-0-7155-0388-1

Explores the principles of acting for students. Susan Richmond discusses the art of acting; make-up; areas of difficulty; and gives exercises for developing abilities. Based on 15 years experience as a drama teacher, particularly at the *Webber-Douglas School*.

Who Would Be An Adjudicator?

56 pages

£4.50

Doris M. Day

978-0-85343-628-7

Doris Day explains how adjudicators arrive at their hundreds of annual adjudications. Who selects them? Do they get training? How do they judge a performance? Illustrated by personal anecdotes, the author sets out the things which have influenced her judgement. She recalls good and bad treatment by officials and actors which will prompt everyone involved with Festivals to ask themselves how often they have been guilty of thoughtlessness. Doris Day is a successful actress, drama director and author of many festival-winning plays. She served as Chairman of the *Guild of Drama Adjudicators*, of which she is now an Honorary Member.

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