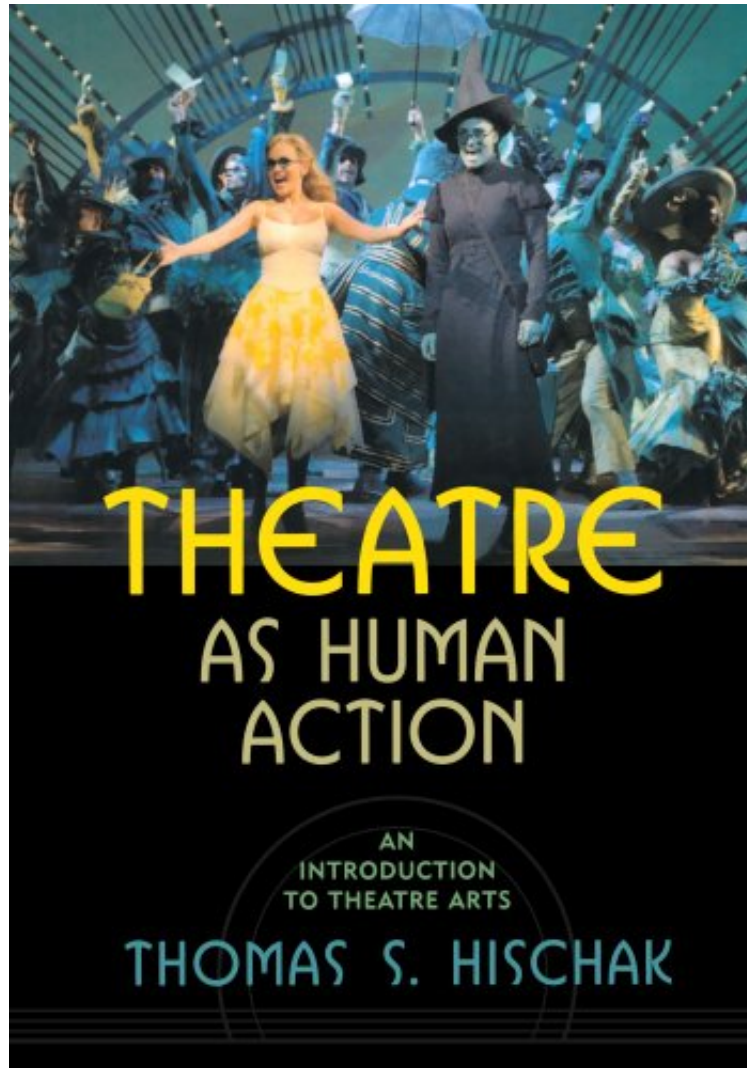


(Free pdf) Theatre as Human Action: An Introduction to Theatre Arts

Theatre as Human Action: An Introduction to Theatre Arts

Thomas S. Hischak

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Unlike other introductory theatre textbooks that are often written for theatre majors and assume a considerable amount of previous knowledge, this text is designed for the general education student in college - one who may not be familiar with very many plays and has only seen a limited number of theatre productions. Because it can be difficult to make references to works that students are already familiar with, this text focuses on just four plays: the tragedy Macbeth, the American classic Our Town, the landmark African American drama A Raisin in the Sun, and the contemporary rock musical Rent. At the beginning of the text, each play is described with plot synopses (and suggested video versions), and then these four representative works are referred to throughout the book. By using these four model plays, this textbook aims to inform the student about theatre arts, stimulate interest in the art form, lead to critical thinking about theatre, and prepare the student to be a more informed and critical theatregoer. The textbook looks at both the theoretical and practical aspects of theatre arts, from the nature of theatre and drama to how it reflects society to explaining the processes that playwrights, actors, designers, directors, producers, and critics go through. Finally, the textbook addresses students as contemporary theatregoers and offers ways in which to better view a theatre production, to discuss it critically, and to do a written evaluation of a theatre event. Structured into seven chapters, each looking at a major area or artist - and concluding with the audience and the students themselves - this unique approach to theatre thoroughly addresses all of the major topics to be found in an introduction to theatre text.

...delivers a great deal of information both of a theoretical and practical nature. It is well written and very readable and should be considered by those who teach introduction to theater courses as well as the casual reader who would like to know more about the theater. (Arba) Aimed at non-majors, this textbook uses examples from four well-known plays - Macbeth, Our Town, A Raisin in the Sun, and Rent - to introduce undergraduates to the theatre arts. Coverage includes fundamental theatrical elements such as playwright and script, as well as the actors, directors, and designers who bring it to life. The volume is illustrated with bw photos of theatre productions.... (Reference Research Book News) Aimed at non-majors, this textbook uses examples from four well-known plays - Macbeth, Our Town, A Raisin in the Sun, and Rent - to introduce undergraduates to the theatre arts. Coverage includes fundamental theatrical elements such as playwright and script, as well as the actors, directors, and designers who bring it to life. The volume is illustrated with bw photos of theatre productions. (Reference Research Book News) About the Author Thomas S. Hischak is professor of theatre at the State University of New York at Cortland. He is the author of thirteen books, including Through the Screen Door: What Happened to the Broadway Musical When it Went to Hollywood (Scarecrow Press, 2004), Enter the Players: New York Stage Actors in the Twentieth Century (Scarecrow Press, 2003), and Boy Loses Girl: Broadway's Librettists (Scarecrow Press, 2002). Hischak is also coeditor of The Oxford Companion to American Theatre, 3rd Edition and winner of a Choice "Outstanding Academic Book" award.