

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Alphonso Atkins Discipline: Theatre Appreciation (HUMA 100) Date: November 13, 2015

World Religion: Judaism Module Title: Directing Cultural Theatre/Theatre of Identity

Module Objectives:

1. Introduce Cultural Theatre/Theatre of Identity through basic definitions of key vocabulary, significant contributions of theatre artists.
2. Explore theatre as a vehicle of seeing the world through another person's eyes.
3. Develop competencies in production/concept planning and script analysis of plays associated with cultural theatre.

Assigned Readings:

Bowker, World Religions, "Judaism" chapter

Downs, The Art of Theatre, "Theatre and Cultural Diversity" chapter 3

Downs, The Art of Theatre, "The Art of Directing" chapter 8

Beebe, Beebe, Redmond, Interpersonal Communication, "Adapting to Others" chapter 4

Diner, A New Promised Land, pp. 41-68

Study Questions:

1. What is the definition of culture? In what ways do religion and ethnicity inform how we see the world (worldview)?
2. What are the fundamental "stories" of Jewish identity in America? What themes emerge from those stories?
3. What is Yiddish? What is the significance of "Yiddish Broadway" in America?
4. How does Anti-Semitism affect the development of Jewish Theatre in America?
5. In Judaism, what is the distinction between Reform and Orthodox?

Assignment:

Prepare a "concept portfolio" for the following play:

***God of Vengeance* by Sholem Ash** (translation by Issac Goldberg)

The concept portfolio will act as a guide for your Directing project. In designing a production, the first step is to perform a **script analysis** which will require knowledge of the following three (3) areas:

- 1. An in-depth knowledge of the “stories” (themes) of the play**
- 2. History of the play itself (previous productions, historical relevance)**
- 3. History and background of the playwright and other works**

Read the play. In addition to the Assignment Study Questions; develop responses for the three (3) areas above. Be prepared to discuss the three areas in our initial concept meeting.