

Wesleyan University
Department of Theater
Fall 2018

The Role and Tasks of the Production Dramaturg at Wesleyan

Students may receive academic credit for serving as a production dramaturg for the faculty productions. Serving as a dramaturg provides deep understanding of the preparation of a play for performance and demonstrates the practical application of liberal arts inquiry into theater-making.

The primary role of the dramaturg is to serve the director and the artistic team. As such, the tasks and responsibilities of the student dramaturg are determined in part by the individual director's needs, the particular challenges of the production, and the Department of Theater's commitment to educating our audiences.

Possible tasks for the production dramaturg:

- Making a vocabulary list; clarifying unusual words or phrases or proper nouns specifying place, time or culture
- Completing a timeline of important events surrounding the creation of the script or the setting of a historical piece
- Compiling images, photographs, music, artwork, literature that illuminates the world of the play
- Offering insight into character names or backgrounds of historical characters
- Researching any previous production history of the play
- Preparing and presenting research to the director, actors and artistic team as determined by the director
- Writing dramaturgical notes for the program
- Designing and installing lobby displays
- Assisting in any panels, pre-show/post-show discussions, or symposia in tandem with the production
- Additional research tasks as defined by the director

Expectations:

- Attendance at all rehearsals as requested by the director with special attention to the first rehearsals, run-throughs, and technical/dress rehearsals
- Willingness to answer questions by actors, director and artistic team
- Meeting all deadlines as announced by the Production Manager, Administrative Assistant, Department Chair and the Director
- Maintaining a professional, helpful attitude in supporting the overall ensemble
- Assisting with developing and maintaining a safe and orderly rehearsal room and performance space.