

## Theatricality In The Age Of Technology

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*Abstract: Before we move in to the details of the theatricality in the age of technology let us discuss about the basic meaning of the words technique and technology. The word “technique” derived in to French from the Greek and Latin. The original Greek word “Techne”(n) “Tekhnikos”<sup>1</sup>(ad) and the Latin word “Technicus” are derived it French as “Technique”. The word “techne “means working with hands, or a craft, or manual skill. In general the word technique is using as becoming expert in a work by doing it in effective way.*

The word Theatre oriented from the Greek word “theatran” which means a sight or to view or to look. The word theatre is used to establish the total elements of the dramatic performance which includes script, acting, place of performance, including the audience or the spectator. In general the word theatre is using as playing the drama or a place to perform play or film. in this article the word theatre is used as the total elements of a Dramatic performance.

If we go through the history of Theatre we can see the origins or the roots are in pre historical age. The theatre has started as the part of communication or sharing the knowledge. Primitive man to share his experience of hunting, started to show the way how he hunt the animal. At that time he started to “Act” with his activity. To get effect he added one more person as the animal. At that time he felt that something is missing. To fill that gap he covered the other person with the skin of the animal which he hunt. With this the make – up added to the show. This is the first step of the technical attachment to the theatre. For some more effect he added the shouts to his activity. All the persons have started to clap. That is one more addition to the play is music. The place, where they are doing the activity become the place of performance or the stage. With that the theatrical performance with all elements got ready. Since the theatre has been used almost each and every invention occurred in this world.

We had enough evidences to prove this statement. The earliest performance occurred in the world are in India, Egypt and Greek. For Indian theatrical performances Natya Shastra is the base text.

In Natya Shastra, there are so many aspects have been discussed. Before going to the details given by Natya Shastra we have to analyse about the elements of technical theatre. In general there are six elements which have been considered as the supporting or technical theatre elements. Those are

- ✓ Set or the stage – the place of performance
- ✓ Properties – the articles which have been used by the actors.
- ✓ Light - to illuminate the acting area
- ✓ Make – up – to establish the character’s dimensions
- ✓ Costume – the clothing to establish the dimensions.
- ✓ Music – to highlight the mood of the play

There will be question that why we need technical element for theatrical production? Some people feels that for street play performance we are not using any technical elements.. But even for the street play we are using the technical element. Let us analyse....

Set: for a street play the acting space is an empty space. according to peter Brook any space where the actor moves for his activity is acting space or the stage. In addition to that in street play the actors try to establish the place or the location with their bodies which are called as human props, they themselves become the set and props.

In the play Antigone actors become the street



Figure 1

While performance of a street play the actors become as the props and objects. Sometimes they become even chariots, machines and other objects. But at that time they have to establish what that article is.



Figure 2

Actors become as chariot for the play

For street play the light is natural light. Sometimes we use artificial lights. Even we use the music for the street play in means of songs and claps. By this we can come to a conclude for any theatrical performance there is need of technical support.

According to The Cambridge guide to the world theatre the function of technical elements for a theatrical production is in ways. One is the better performance and the other function is to control the un necessary elements.

If we go back to the history of theatre we are having so many strong evidences about the usage of the technical elements for the performances. According to Dr. Manmohan Ghosh ancient Indian plays have produced through words, gestures, postures, costume, Make - up, songs and dances of actors, and the instrumental music was played during the performances wherever necessary. In Natya Shastra Bharatha described so many technical elements in various chapter. He described the stage and auditoria in second chapter. He discussed about the various shapes and the sizes of the stage and also the auditorium. According to Bharatha the theatre or the auditorium is of three types according to the size and three

types according to shape. Vikrishta (rectangle), chaturashra (square), tryashra (triangle) are the three types of theatres based on the shapes. According to the size jyeshta (big), madhyama (medium), avara (small) are the three variations according to the size. Bharatha even described about the reflection of the sound in the auditorium. In the whole second chapter Bharatha elaborately described about the green room, main acting area, actors waiting place, place for the musicians and the orchestra. In other chapters

Bharatha described the other technical elements like make-up, costumes, properties, set, and music.

In Greek theatre there are usage of technical aspects like Skene (painted wall in the back side of the acting area). Ekkykelma is the rolled platform used to remove the dead bodies and special entries and exits. Dues ex machina is the crane used for the flying objects and entries of the heavenly people. They have used the masks for the faces. The songs sung by chorus members. The total performance occurred in front of the temple and the audience were on the slopes acropolis hills of city of Athens.

Romans build the auditorium for the play presentation. Later the theatre of Europe has faced so many changes. Need and the purpose of the performance made the performers to make technical inventions. In the medieval period particularly the church people adapted many new ways to propagate their religion. They used the movable stages for the performance.

Mystery play in medieval period.



Figure 3

Now in the age of digital technology theatre has faced so many changes. Theatre reached from using of the tree covers powers to ultra modern cosmetic make - up material. When there is no artificial lights they performed under the natural light or sun light. Later they used the torches. Then lanterns, then petro max lights. When Edison invented the bulb, theatre started to use them. Now we are using The LED and scanner lights. Even for the stage backdrops we are using the LED screens. Instead of using the old dimmers we are using the electronic dimmers or consoles.



*Old electrical dimmer*



*Modern lighting console*

Instead of using old cloth curtains now we are using the LED light curtains and LED projectors. Instead of using the instruments we are using the musical tracks. By using the laptops.

In the End we have to conclude one thing that for the play the technical elements should be used. Not for the technical thing the play. Whatever the supporting elements using in the play should not dominated the play. Those things should be useful to develop the mood of the spectator but not to spoil the mood. But some young directors using unnecessary technical elements in the name of experiment.

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