

TRON

PARTICIPATION

Approaching a Classic text and how to stage it

The Tron Theatre's Artistic Director Andy Arnold gave us his thoughts on how he approaches working on a classical text;

"Like a new piece of writing, no matter how old or familiar the text is make it your own, present it like it is the very first production of it. Whether its 1000yrs old or a modern classic you must communicate it to a contemporary audience. Good classic theatre has universality about it and should be able to communicate itself to every generation watching it.

Now Shakespearean or Greek classics need much more research to be undertaken by the director and the actors so they fully understand the language and sub text. The actors have to have a complete understanding of the lines so they are delivered in a natural way with ease.

When staging a classic text as a director you have to ask yourself are you staying true to the times or putting a modern take on it. Sometimes, certain pieces should be staged as historical pieces rather than hanging modern or political views/messages onto it as this can cause the play to get lost in modern references and ruin the original story".

Things to think about when working on a classic text

- Have you done your research? Do you fully understand the story, sub text, characters
- Improvise the scenes using the characters and plot. Get a feel, in your own language, of what the characters are trying to convey. This way when you use the Shakespearean language you fully understand what you are saying.
- What style do you wish to present it in? Modern or classical? If modern, are you still being true to the original text? Is the modern style over shadowing the story?