

# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Remember to register your  
attendance and  
complete session evaluations.

Session numbers  
are in the program.



SCAN ME



# Do Now

Define “dynamic” and “static” in your own words.

## Tableaus and Stage Pictures



# What is a Tableau?

- Tableaus are stories told through images constructed by people or stage pictures.
- Tableaus use three main elements to convey their message:
  - Focus
  - Body positioning
  - Acting
- Tableaus can be used in multiple forms of theater including: pantomime, street performers, stage plays, musicals, dance, and more!



# Elements of Tableau: Focus

- When referring to theater and staging focus is the place in which the audience is made to look.
- Focus can be achieved through technical elements such as lighting, costuming, and set design.
- Focus can also be achieved through the actors on stage.







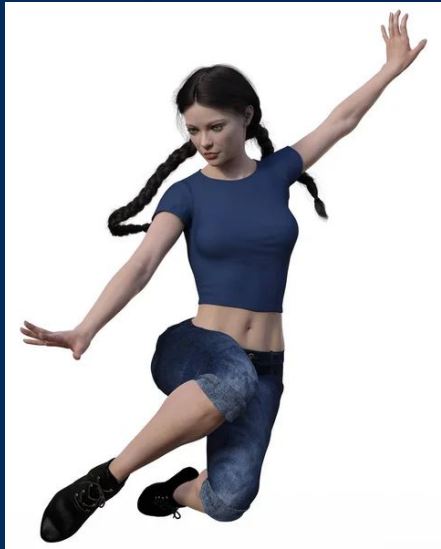
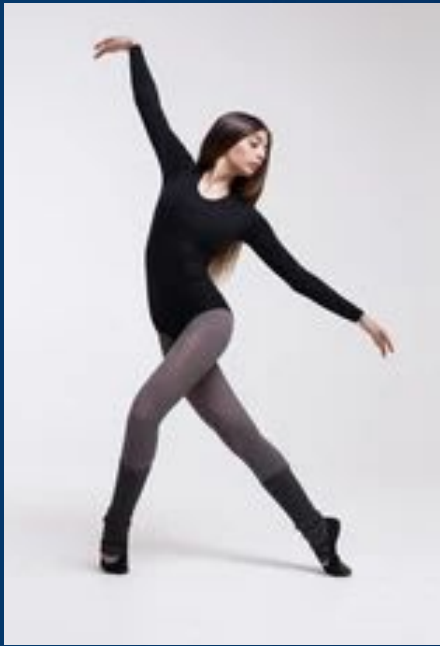
# Giving Focus in Theater

- **Staging:** The most powerful place to stand on stage is downstage center. The second most powerful is center.
- **Height:** The tallest and shortest persons will pull focus. This can also be achieved by having actors be elevated or lowered from the rest.
- **Where we are looking:** If everyone on stage is looking (or not looking) at point specific point, that is where the audience focus will go.
- **Tempo:** If one person is faster or slower than the rest focus will go to the odd person out.

# Elements of Tableau: Body Position

- When telling a story with tableaux, where the actors are placed can help inform the audience.
- Think of body position as “poses”
  - Dynamic poses will be large, over the top, and give information about the character
  - Static poses will be small, muted, and give little away.











# Elements of Tableau: Acting

- Acting involves the facial and body expressions of the individual.
- This will inform the audience the most about what is occurring on stage.
- Facial expressions allow the audience to gauge feeling and intensity.
- Body expression can deal with the physicality of a character or even give ideas as to age.



# Staging a Tableau

To create stage pictures or tableaux, you need to use staging to help create the image.

Focus, body positions, and acting are all things the individual can control.

Staging is what the group as a whole is doing to create these moments.

Staging includes: levels and plains.





# Levels

Levels are the vertical differences between actors on stage.

You can elevate actors with platforms, other actors, standing on chairs, etc.

You can also lower actors by having them crouch, sit, lay down, kneel, etc.

The differences in elevation create different levels on stage.



# Plains

Plains are the horizontal differences in actors.

Plains consist of having actors NOT stand in one line. By staging actors in different parts of the stage, you create plains.

The most common example of this is staging actors in a triangle.

With larger groups, you get more variety in plains.



# Putting it All Together

When you combine the three elements of tableaux and the ideas presented in staging you can create really eye catching stage pictures.

These can be used to highlight moments in the play or scene, create still images that are dynamic, or create good moments of focus.





# Activity!

We will be telling a fairytale in 5 tableaux!

Students will:

1. Get into groups of 5-6
2. Select a Fairytale Story to reenact
3. Complete the Plot Chart for their story elements: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution. Each plot point should be a tableau!
4. All students will be in each tableau. Utilize levels, plans, and angles to create your story. Students may also act as scenery!
5. Students will perform their tableaux!



# Exit Ticket

In two to three sentences compare and contrast levels and plains.