

The Frantic Assembly of Devising Theatre

What is Devising Theatre?

Devising theatre is a form of theater that is created through a collaborative process of improvisation, exploration, and experimentation. It is a highly physical and ensemble-based practice that emphasizes the creation of original work from scratch. Devising theatre is often used to explore social, political, or personal themes, and it can be a powerful tool for storytelling and community engagement.



The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre

by Scott Graham

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 336 pages
Paperback	: 244 pages
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Dimensions	: 5 x 0.51 x 8 inches



The Origins of Devising Theatre

The roots of devising theatre can be traced back to the early days of theater itself. However, it was not until the 20th century that devising theatre began to emerge as a distinct form of theater. In the 1960s and

1970s, a number of influential theater companies, such as the Living Theatre and the Royal Court Theatre, began to experiment with devising techniques. These companies sought to break away from the traditional model of theater, which was based on the production of plays written by a single playwright. Instead, they wanted to create theater that was more collaborative, spontaneous, and responsive to the needs of the audience.

The Techniques of Devising Theatre

The techniques of devising theatre are varied and diverse. However, some of the most common techniques include:

- **Improvisation:** Improvisation is a key technique in devising theatre. It allows actors to explore different ideas and possibilities without the need for a script. Improvisation can be used to develop characters, create scenes, and generate new material.
- **Exploration:** Exploration is another important technique in devising theatre. Actors use exploration to experiment with different ways of moving, speaking, and interacting with each other. This can help them to develop a deeper understanding of their characters and the world of the play.
- **Experimentation:** Experimentation is essential to devising theatre. Actors are encouraged to try different things and take risks. This can lead to the creation of new and innovative work that would not be possible using traditional theater techniques.
- **Collaboration:** Collaboration is at the heart of devising theatre. Actors work together to create the play, and they share responsibility for all aspects of the production. This can lead to a strong sense of community and ownership.

The Benefits of Devising Theatre

There are many benefits to devising theatre. Some of the benefits include:

- **Creativity:** Devising theatre is a highly creative process. Actors are encouraged to think outside the box and come up with new and innovative ideas. This can lead to the creation of original and exciting work.
- **Flexibility:** Devising theatre is a flexible process. Actors can adapt the play to suit the needs of the audience and the venue. This makes it a great form of theater for touring or working in non-traditional spaces.
- **Community:** Devising theatre is a great way to build community. Actors work together to create the play, and they share responsibility for all aspects of the production. This can lead to a strong sense of belonging and camaraderie.
- **Personal growth:** Devising theatre can be a great way for actors to develop their skills and grow as individuals. Actors learn to work independently, take risks, and collaborate with others. This can lead to increased confidence and self-esteem.

Devising theatre is a thrilling and immersive form of theater that emphasizes collaboration, improvisation, and physicality. It is a highly creative and flexible form of theater that can be used to explore a wide range of themes and stories. Devising theatre can be a great way for actors to develop their skills, grow as individuals, and build community.

Additional Resources

- Frantic Assembly
- Theatre Devising
- Devising Theatre: A Practical Guide to Collaborative Creation



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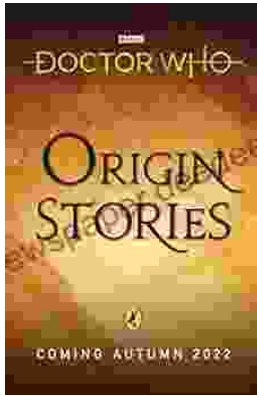
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