

The Hip Hop Greeks

An Exploration of Theories of the Expression of the Human Spirit

Period range: Ancient to Present, any combination

Amy Cotterill – Department of Theatre Arts

Assignment Handout

The Hip Hop Greeks

Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, said there are 6 important aspects of performance that we have discussed in class. Plot, Character, Thought, Diction, Music, Spectacle

The following text loosely tells the story of Oedipus' experience with hubris (excessive pride). The built in plot is has a beginning, middle and end but it is up to you and your group how you tell the story so that the plot is clear and so you are utilizing Aristotle's elements for a great tragedy.

Incorporate the following text into a Greek style performance that utilizes at least 1 actor, 1 choragus (chorus leader who speaks for the people) and the chorus. You should incorporate the following methods of communication...

Music (chanting, singing etc)

Spectacle- Dance (movement of some type)

Speech (diction)

Character (Designate from your group the following roles:

Who is the actor? Who portrays Oedipus, in this case.

Who is the choragus? (the spokesperson for the people, challenges and questions the Main Character)

Who is the chorus? (the townspeople)

You will also create a mask for your character in this performance. It can be simple (a paper plate attached to a popsicle stick that you hold in front of your face) or elaborate. It just has to reflect who your character is.

You and your group will perform this piece in class on Wednesday September 7.

Some Suggestions-

Have fun with the piece, experiment with different movements

Play with repetition of phrases, movement, chanting, etc

Explore movement in the space

Explore stillness in the space

You must listen to each other and work together. If you do so, you will find that your group will come together in a unified rhythm and you will create a unified piece.

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Lie Alone

I seek the truth I cannot lie

I look up to the sky

The gods they don't answer they don't die

The truth is there ain't no lie

I listenin' to the cryin' voice

My hearts a breakin' got no choice

Seek the truth at all cost

Got the truth now I lost

Im wanderin' in the dark alone

Just me an my truth in the zone

No light no love no gods condone

The truth I lie I live alone