

## **DRAMATURG Opportunities**

What is a dramaturg?

The dramaturg position is a relatively recent addition to the Theatre Arts. What a dramaturg does varies greatly depending on the needs of the playwright, production, and/or institution with whom the dramaturg is working.

Dramaturgs tend to be people who enjoy researching unfamiliar worlds, have a passion for storytelling, and a keen interest in the collaborative creative process. They are fully committed to advocating for the audience point of view.

Here are some things dramaturgs do at Earlham to assist the production:

### **Expectations:**

Advocate for the integrity of the Playwright's work

Serve as Research Resource for the Production Team and Acting Company

Curate Audience Experience of this production of the play

### **Potential Products:**

Research packet for acting company

*Assemble a packet of information for the actors that includes background information on the play, playwright and historical context – particularly those pieces of information that might illuminate the play and this production. As part of this packet include a glossary of terms and pronunciations. This should be created in conjunction with the director's needs.*

Program Notes

*Includes general info from acting company packet which is relevant to the audience understanding of the production as well as how the play resonates with today's world. Perhaps options for action and/or more information.*

Study Guides

*Think in terms of providing information teachers do not have the time to prep.. What information will help students get more out of their experience of seeing the show? Suggest questions/activities/learn more about opportunities to process experience after the show. Include brief summary of action (with major events), the playwright, and historical/cultural context. Guides could include past*

*production/historical photos, current production design sketches, a glossary, favorite quotes, personal interview snippets and so much more!*

### Lobby displays

*For Wilkinson Theatre productions we have the display windows to work with. In the past we have also set up folding screens and/or poster boards in the space. And have sometimes used tables as stations for interactive activities.*

### Prologue presentations (preparation and/or delivery)

*A Prologue is a brief presentation or talk before a performance that provides context about the history of the play and its original production, as well as the concept and designs prepared for this production. A time to ask questions is also useful. A Prologue usually begins 45 minutes before curtain and lasts about 15 or 20 minutes.*

### Post-show conversation presentation and/or facilitation

*One of the most valuable contributions Production Partners can make is to participate in a post-performance conversation with audience members as they respond to the themes of the play. Partners may serve as panelists, offer their particular expertise about the issues of the play, and/or facilitate the group conversation.*