

Department of Theatre
Production Staff Job Descriptions
Dramaturg

Dramaturg: A specialist on dramatic construction and the body of dramatic literature; a scientist of the art of drama. Dramaturgs are frequently engaged by professional and academic theatres to assist in choosing and analyzing plays, developing production concepts; researching topics pertinent to historic period or play production style, and writing program essays. The dramaturg has been a mainstay of German theatre since the eighteenth century and is becoming increasingly popular in the English-speaking world.

Pre-production:

- Analyses the structure of the play
- Researches criticism of the play
- Researches the production history of the play
- Researches the biography of the playwright
- Reads other plays and criticism of other plays by the same playwright
- Researches the historical/social/political/cultural circumstances of both the setting of the play and the period/place in which it was written
- Shares this information with the director, and aids in synthesizing its content with the director's own research and analysis to create a coherent production concept
- Researches any additional information to support the director's interpretation/analysis
- Attends design meetings at the request of the director

Rehearsal Period:

- Attends rehearsals at the request of the director, particularly during early table work and conceptual/design presentations
- Consults with the director on staging, interpretation, and other rehearsal concerns as related to analytic and conceptual issues
- Researches for additional interpretative questions that develop in rehearsal
- Consults with the director and/or playwright on script cuts and revisions when appropriate
- Compiles research, as appropriate, for program notes

Dress Rehearsal/Performance Period:

- Attends a technical or dress rehearsal at the request of the director to consult on conceptual concerns once technically implemented
- Consults on final cuts/revisions with director, playwright, and other members of production team, when appropriate
- Leads post show discussion or talk back, when appropriate

After Final Performance:

- Attends critique and aids in analysis/discussion of conceptual strengths and weaknesses of production in both theory and application.