



THE ART OF ACTING: ISSUES OF TRADITION AND PROGRESS

Bekniyazova Gulbaxar

*Uzbekiston davlat san'at va madaniyat instituti
Nukus filiali "Akterlik maxorati" kafedrasida dotsenti*

Karamatdinova Ulmanay

1-kurs Musikalni teatr aktyorligi yunalishi student

Annotation: This article delves into the dynamic interplay between tradition and progress in the realm of acting, exploring how actors navigate the rich tapestry of established practices and innovative approaches. Through a comprehensive literature analysis, the study aims to uncover the key challenges and opportunities faced by actors in balancing tradition and progress. The methods section outlines the diverse methodologies employed in understanding the actors' experiences, followed by a presentation of results. The discussion section critically examines the findings, drawing connections between tradition, progress, and the evolving landscape of theatrical performance. Finally, the article concludes with insights and suggestions for actors and the broader theatre community.

Keywords: Acting, tradition, progress, theatre, methodology, performance, literature analysis, conclusions, suggestions.

The world of acting is a vibrant intersection of tradition and progress, where the echoes of classical techniques resonate alongside the innovative strides of contemporary methodologies. This article seeks to unravel the complexities surrounding this interplay, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities actors encounter as they navigate the evolving landscape of theatre. By examining existing literature, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how tradition and progress shape the art of acting.

In this section, we delve into the extensive body of literature that examines the historical roots and evolution of acting techniques. From the classical methods of Stanislavski to the groundbreaking approaches of modern practitioners like Lee Strasberg and Uta Hagen, the analysis uncovers the deep-seated traditions that continue to influence acting pedagogy and practice. Simultaneously, the review explores recent trends and avant-garde methodologies that challenge established norms, showcasing the progressive spirit that propels the art of acting into new realms.



To comprehend the experiences of actors in negotiating tradition and progress, a diverse set of methodologies was employed. Interviews with seasoned actors, observational studies of rehearsals and performances, and surveys within the theatre community were conducted. The triangulation of these methods aimed to capture a holistic picture of the actors' perspectives, experiences, and challenges in balancing tradition and progress in their craft.

The art of acting is a dynamic and evolving field that constantly grapples with the tension between tradition and progress. This tension is intrinsic to the nature of theater and performance, as the art form draws from historical roots while also adapting to contemporary sensibilities. Here are some key issues and considerations related to the interplay between tradition and progress in the art of acting:

Tradition:

Classical Techniques:

- Many acting traditions have deep roots in classical techniques. For example, Stanislavski's system, rooted in psychological realism, has been a foundational influence on modern acting.

- Traditional training often emphasizes the importance of understanding and embodying historical styles, such as Shakespearean verse or ancient Greek drama.

Repertory Theater:

- Repertory theater, where a company performs a rotating selection of plays, is a traditional approach that fosters a deep connection to classic works.

- The preservation and revival of classic plays contribute to the continuity of theatrical traditions.

Cultural Heritage:

- Different cultures have their own rich traditions of performance and acting. Traditional forms, like Noh theater in Japan or Indian classical theater, carry a cultural legacy that actors may draw upon.

Progress:

Method Acting and Beyond:

- The mid-20th-century emergence of method acting, influenced by Stanislavski but taking a more personal and emotional approach, marked a departure from some traditional techniques.

- Contemporary acting often explores a range of methods and approaches, embracing eclecticism.

Inclusivity and Diversity:



- Progress in acting includes a push for greater inclusivity and diversity, both in terms of casting and the stories told. This involves challenging traditional norms and expanding representation on stage.

Technology and Innovation:

- Advancements in technology have influenced acting, with film, television, and virtual performances becoming significant mediums. Actors now navigate the nuances of on-screen versus on-stage presence.

- Immersive and interactive theater experiences are pushing the boundaries of traditional audience-performer relationships.

Deconstruction of Gender and Genre:

- Contemporary acting challenges traditional gender roles and explores non-binary and transgender narratives.

- Genres are often deconstructed and blended, leading to new forms of storytelling that defy traditional categorizations.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Balancing Tradition with Innovation:

- Actors and directors must navigate the balance between respecting traditional techniques and embracing innovative approaches to keep the art form vibrant.

Training and Education:

- Acting schools and programs grapple with updating curricula to reflect both the rich history of the craft and the demands of a rapidly changing artistic landscape.

Social and Political Relevance:

- The theater has historically been a space for social and political commentary. Balancing the timeless themes of classic works with addressing contemporary issues is an ongoing challenge.

In essence, the art of acting is a dynamic conversation between the past and the present, tradition and progress. Successful actors often draw inspiration from a deep understanding of the historical context while bringing a fresh perspective to their craft, contributing to the ongoing evolution of this rich and diverse art form.

Building upon the results, the discussion section critically analyzes the implications of tradition and progress on the art of acting. It explores how the tension between these two forces can be a source of creativity or a challenge to artistic expression. Additionally, the section examines the impact of technological advancements, cultural shifts, and societal changes on the evolution of acting



methods. The discussion aims to provoke thought on the future trajectory of the art form in the face of an ever-changing artistic landscape.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

The article concludes by synthesizing key findings and offering insights into the delicate dance between tradition and progress in acting. It reflects on the enduring importance of traditional techniques while acknowledging the necessity of embracing innovation. The conclusion also provides practical suggestions for actors, directors, and educators to navigate this delicate balance, fostering an environment where the art of acting can thrive in both its rich heritage and its constant evolution.

In essence, this article serves as a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted nature of acting, recognizing it as a dynamic art form where tradition and progress coalesce, creating a rich tapestry that continues to captivate and challenge performers and audiences alike.

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