

# THTR 250

## Introduction to Design

Fall 2020

### **A,B,C's of External Research**

When we speak of External Research, it means the information that is found outside of the script. It is the next research step, and continues throughout the process. This information can come from anywhere: libraries, design files or the internet Here's a partial checklist of information I use sometimes - the information needed can change radically from play to play, but this is a good place to start.

- 1) Date of the Play
  - A) Date of composition
  - B) Date of first Production
  - C).Date of the play's action, season
  - D). Time span within the play
- 2) Period of the play - All periods have roots in periods that precede them. Scenic periods change more slowly and are often tied to architecture and geography. Costume and scenic periods often are out of sync with each other.
  - A). Materials used?
  - B). Design innovations? Inventions?
  - C). Details that may affect movement.
  - D). Dominant colors and finishes.
- 3).Geographical Factors in design
  - A). Where does the play take place?
  - B). Are there important local details?
  - C). Is the Quality of light a factor?
- 4). Artistic Climate of the time.
  - A). Important Artists
  - B). Art movements and any relevance to the play.
- 5). Religious Climate of the time.
- 6). Political Climate of the time.
- 7). Author's commentary on his own time, Why did the author write this play? Why this title?
- 8). Style of Play as originally produced.