

Overview of Theatre

As revealed in the earliest recorded history, theatre reflects the time and place of its origins. The creations of theatre artists come from perceptions of nature, from relationships and interactions with others, and from the artists' inner selves.

Through storytelling and other oral traditions, cultures define themselves and educate their members down through the ages. In contemporary and historical commemorations, celebrations, and dramatizations, theatre gives voice to culture. Theatre, pageant, entertainment, new media, and electronic technology continue to serve many social functions. Theatre unifies groups, expresses important knowledge, reinforces group values, strengthens the individual, and defines and commemorates events. It provides a powerful multisensory mirror reflecting social issues, challenges, and accomplishments.

The elements of theatre in stage, film, and video productions include scriptwriting, acting, technical production, management, and design.

In a well-planned theatre education program, students engage directly in each of the elements during grade-by-grade study of theatre, enabling them to learn time management, solve problems, work collaboratively, and exhibit leadership skills.

Their participation in theatre helps them gain an increased understanding of self and the world, empathy for others, and self-confidence. They learn to make critical judgments about television, radio, electronic media, and live performance.

California Visual and Performing Arts Framework (California Department of Education, 2019)