

WRITING A REVIEW

Dear Reviewer,

We assume that you are comfortable writing in English and keen on theatre. Here are a few guidelines that should help make your review accessible to the global audience of PlaystoSee.com. You may not need to use all of them all the time, but they provide a basic frame of reference. Remember there is no one way of writing a review; however you should follow the playstosee.com template ([provide here the link](#)).

Bear in mind that you are writing for an international audience.

- ✓ Devote a sentence or two to the theatre where you saw the play,
- ✓ If one or more of the actors in the play you are reviewing is a star or celebrity in your country, you might want to say something about what made her or him famous.
- ✓ Is the play itself well-known in your country?
- ✓ Is it a new play or an old one rarely performed?
- ✓ If the play is well-known you might just like to remind the reader (in one paragraph) of the gist of the play.
- ✓ If the play is not well-known you might spend a couple of paragraphs telling us about it - no need to tell us the whole story though.
- ✓ Sit down with a blank sheet of paper and without looking at any notes which you might have taken, think back to the performance you saw, and write down the three most memorable aspects of it - or significant moments - in just a few words each.
- ✓ Now put these in a circle and write words around them trying to work out why you remember these bits. Don't try to be clever or use words that you think you have to. You don't even need to be positive.
- ✓ Some of these words might naturally link. Try writing a few sentences which connect and explain your responses
- ✓ If you want to jog your memory - you could use a list of possible areas you could comment on to see whether there is anything else to comment on.

ACTING	SET	IMPACT
WRITING	MUSIC	EFFECTS
DIRECTION	SOUND	PROPS
STAGING	LIGHTING	COSTUMES
	PERIOD	

DIRECTION
STAGING

SOUND
LIGHTING

PROPS
COSTUME

- Think about whether you liked something or not and consider why it was successful or unsuccessful. Was it to do with skill, content, style, pace....

Writing a first draft

- Use the following guidelines to write your first draft:

Say what you saw – describe
Say what you think – give an opinion
Write freely from the heart - don't try too hard

Don't worry about theories
Create your own theories

Be detailed and specific
Describe moments
Say why the moment spoke to you

Consider

The light, sound, movement, colours, textures
The words, rhythms, music of the text
The tones, gestures, expressions, physicalities
The set, props, costumes, style of the production

- Put your first draft away and come back to it later. Consider if it accurately reflects your response to the production and expand and edit it if necessary. Think about your reader who hasn't seen the play – would they get the impression you want from what you have written?

Three simple questions:

- What is the production trying to do?
- How does it try to do it?
- Does it succeed?

We look forward to your reviews.

Editorial Team

www.playstosee.com