

My Project

Introduction

For my project, I will be investigating to see how technology having more available to a specific performance will influence the quality of performance. I think that this is interesting to investigate because it will be able to show how different run throughs of a performance can be with more or less tech involved.

I took a real interest in this project idea because I love technology and as an actor, I realised how much technology has affected my performances over the years and wondered what those performances would've been if I had a bigger amount of technology available to me. I also thought about how every theatre and schools has limits with the amount of technology that they have, and I decided that I would like to investigate whether that these effects the quality of performance so drastically that it would give some people an advantage in getting into the acting business because they might have got lucky with where they were born.

Outlines for my Project

The original idea for my project was to do have one small scene that would be completed with the different levels of technology. However, after some consideration I felt that it would be more beneficial to my project and my findings if I were to add a few more plays that all are very contrasting in themes and storyline to get a bigger scope into whether my hypothesis would be proved. My hypothesis for this project would be that having more technology available does affect the quality of performances put on.

This would mean that I would find a way to put on 3 different plays at 4/5 different technology levels that would hopefully be able to give the best opportunity to show the effects that technology has on performances. I think that having three different plays will allow to get a range of performances that will or won't work with the technology changing the performance significantly.

Variables to Consider

While in the creation of how I'm going to go through with my project, I had to consider my variable to make sure there is no special treatment being involved. The first issue that I came across was originally with scripts and scenes because I felt that there are too many plays and scenes in existence to randomly pick. So, I decided that I could pick the plays just if they were contrasting and would show how technology can affect the quality of the performance to an audience.

The second thing I needed to consider is the audience. As the different audience members will have different preferences when it comes to their favourite things to watch. I will have to keep

the audience the same for every performance so that way it is fair, and we can get the same results for each performance.

I have also found the same issue for the cast of the performance. As I want some findings from the cast themselves about what they performed, I feel that it is necessary to keep the same cast so that way they can perform all the shows and then I can gather the information from them about what they thought and which one they liked performing the most. This also means that the performances would be as similar as possible because if there were different the performance would be different as well.

At the end of the performances, I will give out a survey to everyone who wants the performance and all the actors that played roles or took part and ask them questions about each set of plays and the technological aspects and whether they added anything or that it was just there for no reason and ask which was their favourite and other things. All the feedback would then be used to prove whether my hypothesis was proved.

How technology has changed theatre:

As time has passed technology has been more and more integrated into our lives and into theatre too. And as technology is getting more advanced, there are being more creation that will influence not only life, but also how plays can be put on.

One of the biggest changes over time is the improved sound and lighting. Since the start of theatre of performances would have used real objects to create sound like cannons among other items. However, these have been phased out as we now have hi-tech sound systems that can play whatever sounds that are needed and timed to be directly on cue also. These advancements have been very beneficial in creating the best performances possible. (Abshire, 2022)

However, not all theatres have the same budgets or space available on site to facilitate the best equipment to allow this. This create some differences in how good the performance may be because of the lack of facilities available. Which In turn may cause some disbalances in opportunities in getting into the business for someone wanting to play bigger roles because their shows aren't going to be a spectacle because of the facilities. This in turn creates unequal opportunities for different people because of the chances they get.

Another big aspect of performances is the special effects. When used correctly they can add a lot to a piece. You can create realistic sceneries and props to create illusions that make them look real. However, the same difficulty lies because to have special effects is expensive and not everyone will be able to afford them and will create diversions in quality. But does having them make them worse.

When you consider live theatre, many people would probably think of a minimalist stage with maybe a spotlight or two. However, in the modern day of staging, that is not enough to consider when you think of when putting on a performance. Nowadays, there are plenty more aspects to consider including massive sets, props and more. All these aspects help create the extra world that the actors perform in. Having these extravagant sets. Allows for the best possible performances because they will be able to get recognition for being so brave with the extravagance. However, for a company that is unable to afford the extravagant sets and stages will be worse off because they are not attracted to because they don't stand out in a way that is necessary to bring outsiders in. Which also may cause disadvantages because the smaller shows are less likely to get the recognition that they deserve because it's not as good.

Arnold Aronson proposed that "Theatre is shaped not by specific technological developments, but through transformations in consciousness and modes of perception" This would entail that while technology has its uses, the main work comes from the cast to help create the world which then the technology will help to bolster the strength of performance. (Lavender, 2008)

Covid-19

As the pandemic started in early 2020 everything had to shut down, this was extremely hard-hitting on loads of businesses, especially theatres. This meant that many theatres had to shut down and were unable to put on performances. This meant that there were a lot of budget cuts including some technological cuts and were unable to improve the facilities which also means in term also means that those theatres are at a disadvantage because those facilities are not good enough to put on quality shows that can compete with other theatres. This would ultimately mean that the performances would not be as popular because they don't have the facilities to create the flashy environment that is usually seen as an attraction.

I also think that the technology had changed during covid because we had access to ZOOM. Zoom was great at allowing companies during lockdown to still use the ability to give entertainment to people during lockdown. This is an example of how good technology can be when it is put to good uses. I also think that using zoom was useful in finding the limitations with being at home and creating performances while at home is an amazing way to give back to the viewers and have a good way of making performances well shown. (Woods, 2022)

Survey:

I have giving out a survey that will give people a chance to see what they think about how technology affects the acting industry and what different scenarios can affect the ability to get into the industry. I'm hoping that the findings of this survey will be able to prove my hypothesis that technology availability does affect how easy it is to get into the industry.

In my survey, I have asked about whether people think technology influences performance quality, to what extent the technology has on the industry, whether technology leads to more creative opportunities while creating performances and whether the amount of technology

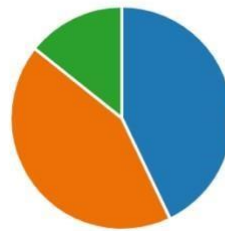
available influences the difficulty in getting into the industry. From my survey, I would like to gain an understanding about what people think about technology and how it has changed the industry over the years and whether that has had a negative or positive influence.

In my survey 85% of people said that technology has some sort of importance to them in a performance, I expected the results to come out this way because as actors we rely on technology to make our performances better and help create the atmosphere around us.

1. How important is technology in performances for you? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

Extremely important	3
Somewhat important	3
Has no effect	1
Somewhat not important	0
Extremely not important	0



Another question in my survey was based on a scale. The premise of the question was to find out how much the technology that a company or school has affects the possibility of getting into the industry. The average score on the scale was 6. I felt that this score would've been at least 8. This is because as my target audience for my survey was actors, I felt that because they rely on technology, they would feel like it would be more useful and needed to help people get into the industry better. This is as I find performances with more technology tend to do better.

4. How much do you think the amount of technology available to a company/school effects the possibilities of getting into the industry? *

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Technology definetly
doesn't effect this

Technology definetly
effects this

The final main question I got people to answer was to find out whether people thought that having more technology opens more creative opportunities when it comes to performances and to explain why. Everyone that answered the survey said yes to a certain extent. One of the replies stood out to me. The response was "Yes and No, the idea and collaboration are what makes a story or production. However, technology can accentuate a story in several ways." This quote stood out to me the most because it was able to capture both sides of my investigation. On one hand the main point of the production is to make the cast and

performance to stand out, however, the technology that is used can make that production even better and highlight the skills that actors have even brighter.

Solution:

Even though my survey may have not reached enough people now, I am hoping that if I am able to, that my survey can be sent out to more people from a wider scope of people including audience and designers. This would be able to give a different array of answers as they will have different viewpoints on what they feel is acceptable to them.

I also hope to see that if my project is carried out, that everybody will be able to see the effect that technology has on performances and the benefits that come along with it. I also hope that the performances may change a lot of perspectives as those people also realise the effect that technology has on performances. The way I would find this information out is by giving the audience and actors another survey that will be much simpler than the first survey handed out. Because this survey will just have a list of all the performances they have watched with the different levels of technology and all they would do is tick their favourite to watch. I feel that this would be a good way of proving my hypothesis.

However, I do know that while this may prove my hypothesis for a small group, I may be unable to complete this project in a way that will be able to show the best possible results that I want. So, I'm hoping that if I get the chance, I will be able to send out my project in the hopes that someone else is as interested as me and will be able to give the project the detail it deserves.

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