

## Thoughts on the Theater

All you need for theater is "two boards and a passion." -Lope de Vega

"The theater, which is in no thing, but makes use of everything -- gestures, sounds, words, screams, light, darkness -- rediscovers itself at precisely the point where the mind requires a language to express its manifestations. To break through language in order to touch life is to create or recreate the theatre." -Antonin Artaud

"Drama is based on the Mistake. I think someone is my friend when he really is my enemy, that I am free to marry a woman when in fact she is my mother, that this person is a chambermaid when it is a young nobleman in disguise, that this well-dressed young man is rich when he is really a penniless adventurer, or that if I do this such and such a result will follow when in fact it results in something very different. All good drama has two movements, first the making of the mistake, then the discovery that it was a mistake." -W.H. Auden

"Theatergoing is a communal act, movie going a solitary one." -Robert Brustein

"The pit of a theatre is the one place where the tears of virtuous and wicked men alike are mingled." -Denis Diderot

"The stage but echoes back the public voice.  
The drama's laws the drama's patrons give,  
For we that live to please, must please to live."  
- Samuel Johnson

"By whatever means it is accomplished, the prime business of a play is to arouse the passions of its audience so that by the route of passion may be opened up new relationships between a man and men, and between men and Man. Drama is akin to the other inventions of man in that it ought to help us to know more, and not merely to spend our feelings." -Arthur Miller

"The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts, but is also the return of art to life." -Oscar Wilde

"The actor does not need to "become" the character. There *is* no character. There are only lines on a page." -David Mamet

"The play's the thing  
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king." -William Shakespeare