

# Staging the Aesthetic Politics of Collective Performance

The staging process of collective performance is a complex and multi-layered endeavour that involves the coordination of a wide range of artistic, technical, and logistical elements. More than simply the physical mounting of a performance, staging is an integral part of the creative process, informing the work's aesthetics, meaning, and impact. In this article, we will explore the key elements of the staging process, examining how they contribute to the overall aesthetic and political dimensions of collective performance.

## The Physical Environment

The physical environment in which a performance takes place plays a crucial role in shaping its aesthetic and political impact. The choice of venue, seating arrangements, lighting, and sound design all contribute to the creation of a specific atmosphere and context for the work.



## Staging Process: The Aesthetic Politics of Collective Performance by Rob Roznowski

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For example, a performance staged in a large, open space with high ceilings will create a sense of grandeur and spectacle, while a performance staged in a small, intimate space will create a sense of closeness and intimacy. The seating arrangements can also affect the relationship between the performers and the audience, with a proscenium stage creating a traditional divide between the two, while a thrust stage or in-the-round seating can create a more immersive and participatory experience.

## **The Performers**

The performers are central to the staging process, and their skills, experience, and physical presence all contribute to the work's aesthetic and political dimensions. The choice of performers, their training, and their

rehearsal process all play a role in shaping the performance's overall impact.



For example, a performance that features highly trained dancers will likely have a more polished and refined aesthetic than a performance that features non-professional performers. The performers' training and experience will also influence their ability to convey the work's message and engage with the audience.

## **The Audience**

The audience is an integral part of the staging process, and their presence and participation can have a significant impact on the work's aesthetic and political dimensions. The size and composition of the audience, their

expectations, and their level of engagement can all affect the performance's overall impact.



For example, a performance that is staged for a small, select audience may have a more intimate and personal feel than a performance that is staged for a large, public audience. The audience's expectations can also affect the performance's impact, with a performance that is staged for a highly critical audience likely to be more self-conscious and polished than a performance that is staged for a more supportive audience.

### **The Creative Team**

The creative team, which includes the director, choreographer, composer, and designers, plays a vital role in the staging process. The creative team's

vision for the work, their artistic skills, and their collaborative process all contribute to the work's overall aesthetic and political impact.



For example, a director with a strong visual aesthetic may create a performance that is visually stunning, while a choreographer with a strong focus on movement may create a performance that is physically dynamic and expressive. The composer and designers can also contribute to the work's overall impact, with their music and visual elements creating a specific atmosphere and context for the performance.

### **The Production Process**

The production process, which includes the technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances, is the culmination of the staging process.

During this time, the creative team and the performers work together to refine the performance and ensure that it is ready for public consumption.



The production process is also an important time for the creative team to reflect on the work's aesthetic and political dimensions and to make any necessary changes. The technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals allow the creative team to fine-tune the performance's technical elements, such as the lighting, sound, and set design. The performances themselves allow the creative team to assess the work's impact on the audience and to make any necessary adjustments.

### **The Aesthetic and Political Dimensions of Collective Performance**

The staging process of collective performance is a complex and multi-layered endeavour that involves the coordination of a wide range of artistic,

technical, and logistical elements. More than simply the physical mounting of a performance, staging is an integral part of the creative process, informing the work's aesthetics, meaning, and impact. By understanding the key elements of the staging process, we can better appreciate the complex and multifaceted nature of collective performance and its potential to engage with audiences on both an aesthetic and political level.

Collective performance is a powerful and transformative art form that has the potential to engage with audiences on both an aesthetic and political level. The staging process of collective performance is a complex and multi-layered endeavour that involves the coordination of a wide range of artistic, technical, and logistical elements. More than simply the physical mounting of a performance, staging is an integral part of the creative process, informing the work's aesthetics, meaning, and impact. By understanding the key elements of the staging process, we can better appreciate the complex and multifaceted nature of collective performance and its potential to change the world.



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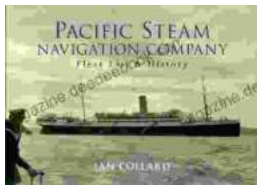
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