

Summer Work 1: Component 3 Research

Home I'm Darling Laura Wade (2018)

A couple choose to live their lives in the glamorous 1950s of Doris Day and Rock Hudson movies! This play humorously deconstructs their “rose tinted” world to get to the nub of what makes a relationship work in the post-feminist era. Amongst the cocktails and devilled eggs, Judy and Johnny are forced to evaluate what their real motives for this “lifestyle” choice are, and how they can reconnect with what really drives their relationship. Wade’s vibrant historical framing allows the audience to scrutinise the effects of gender roles and the consequences for men and women of a world liberated from their chains, and traces how the morals of the past are unacceptable in the #Me too era. The message of the play is to learn from the past but recreate it at your peril!

TASK

1. Research 1950 Britain : Men and Women’s Roles : You should include the following:

- Men and Women in education and work
- Men and Women in the Home- what are the main differences between then and now

2. Research the background to the play itself: Summarise in 5 bullet points your findings: You should include the following:

Laura Wade and reaction to original production

Summarise in 5 Bullet Points your findings:

Summer Work 2: Component 3 Research

The Arsonists (The Fire Starters) Max Frisch (1953)

This is an absurdist, anarchic text. It is a 'morality play, without a 'moral'. It was written in response to the takeover of Czechoslovakia by the USSR in 1948. It is a simple story. In an unnamed town, arsonists are gradually destroying all the town's buildings. A rich man decides to let the arsonists come and stay believing that they would not destroy his property if they were acquainted. He is wrong and they burn his house down. The text is an allegory for our times. How we decide to ignore aspects of a person or people and believe that we can control them. The text has a chorus of firemen and a swift moving text changing location quickly. It has a very clear message to a contemporary audience about depending too much on people we disagree with and not challenging them. It is a vivid and exciting text, one that would lead to a lot of practical staging work.

TASK

1. Research Max Frisch – and the original production and audience reception.
2. Research how The Rise of Fascism in Germany, Swiss Neutrality during WW2 and the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948 influenced the writing of the play
3. Research Theatre of the Absurd

Summarise your findings in 5 Key Bullet Points