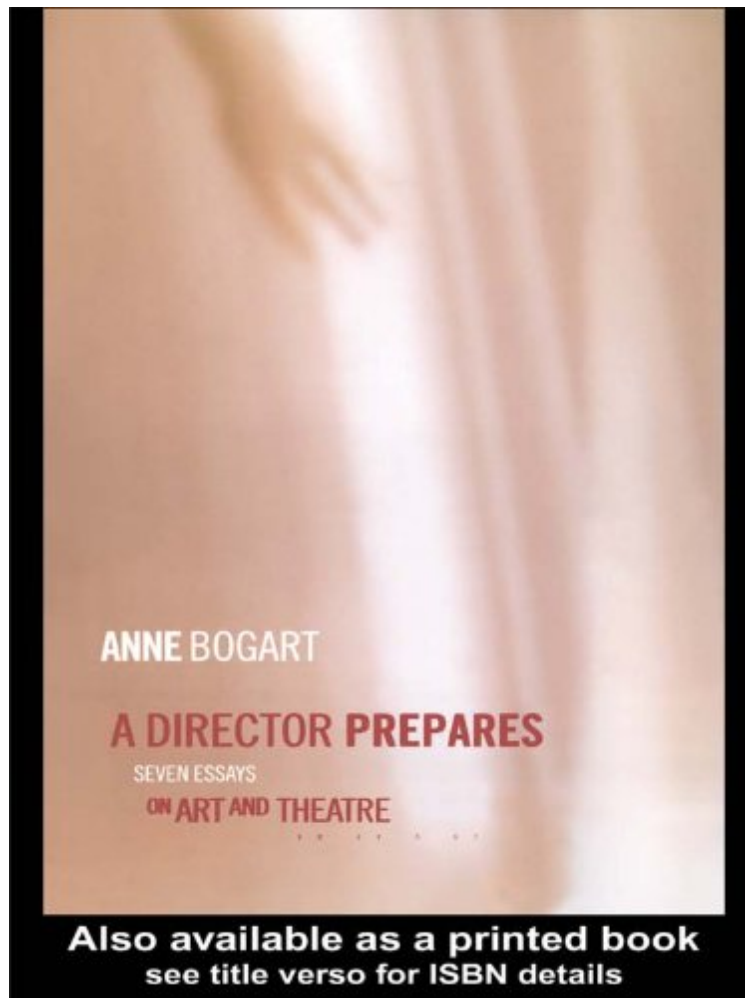


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A Director Prepares: Seven Essays on Art and Theatre

Anne Bogart

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A Director Prepares is a thought-provoking examination of the challenges of making theatre. In it, Anne Bogart speaks candidly and with wisdom of the courage required to create 'art with great presence'. Each chapter tackles one of the seven major areas Bogart has identified as both potential partner and potential obstacle to art-making. They are Violence; Memory; Terror; Eroticism; Stereotype; Embarrassment; and Resistance. Each one can be used to generate extraordinary creative energy, if we know how to use it. *A Director Prepares* offers every practitioner an extraordinary insight into the creative process. It is a handbook, Bible and manifesto, all in one. No other book on the art of theatre comes even close to offering this much understanding, experience and inspiration.

From *Library Journal* Bogart (directing, Columbia Univ.) is the artistic director of the SITI Company, an ensemble-based theater company that she founded with Tadashi Suzuki. Her book is aimed at the practitioner but has value for the avid theatergoer as well. What we see on stage, as a whole, is a culmination of bits and pieces, steps forward and backward, as a work of "art" is created and then presented. In each essay, Bogart discusses one of seven concepts: violence, memory, terror, eroticism, stereotype, embarrassment, and resistance that can work as an obstruction or catalyst to this creative process. The concepts themselves are thought-provoking, and Bogart's text is even more so. For Bogart, these concepts incite energy (positive or negative) that both actors and director absorb and radiate. One suspects that the energy acts on the viewer (and reader) as well. A quote by Jeanette Winterson on the first page clearly illustrates Bogart's passion and love of the theater experience: "Art is the burning bush that both shelters and makes visible our profounder longings." For all theater collections. Susan L. Peters, Univ. of Texas Medical Branch on Galveston Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. No Instructions, No Theory, No Intimate Personal Revelations: Just Some Pithy Observations, Lively Vignettes and Deeply Held Beliefs from One Accomplished Director. Open this short clutch of essays by Anne Bogart, and you will set loose a thousand passions, principles and debates to keep you and your friends up at night over a bottle of booze... We will all find something to disagree with in this book, but Bogart knows that this is necessary and good. Her essays will nurture, provoke, instruct and encourage for years to come. —David Herskovits, Artistic Director, Target Margin Theater The concepts themselves are thought-provoking, and Bogart's text is even more so. —Susan Peters, *Library Journal*, November 2001 In *A Director Prepares: Seven Essays on Art and Theatre*, [Bogart] provides insight into her own artistic development, while offering straightforward advice to both the novice and the experienced director... [She] offers directors both inspirational and practical solutions to common problems. Bogart has undeniably distinguished herself as a superior director, and with this publication, she is successful in providing a practical text that encourages self-discipline, experimentation, and artistic growth among theatre practitioners. —Carrie Kathryn Lee, *Bowling Green State University Modern Drama*, Spring 2002 About the Author Anne Bogart is a director and teaches directing at Columbia University and New York University.