

THEATRE APPRECIATION
Instructor: Janet Roney
THE PRODUCTION PROCESS-RECREATING NATURE

Nature, the re-creation of Nature. This is more often than not our goal on stage. Just as the actor must study human nature, the human being and his role in the world around him, so, too, must all Theatre artists learn to observe nature. Playwrights, directors, actors, and designers will all benefit from careful observation of the natural world. What does it look like? What does it smell like? Your tactile sense...what do you feel? What sounds can you hear in the quiet of nature? Does the fresh berry you just picked yourself taste different?

Go outside. Be silent and peaceful. Make careful observation of nature around you. Close your eyes. Commit the sensations to memory.

Visual balance in nature:

- Placement of vegetation
- Height levels
- Variety of color

Texture

- Grass
- Tree with pinecones
- Softness of a leaves
- Hardness of stone

Sounds

- Wind
- Plants moving
- Movement of water
- Quiet

Smell

- Heat vs. cold
- Natural vs. man-made
- Pleasant vs. disgusting

Taste

- Sweet vs. sour
- Raw vs. cooked
- Hot vs. cold

As a director, how could you include the sense of smell in the realization of your overall concept?

As a scenic designer, how could you use the textures in nature in your designs?

How can sound be used to evoke the desired audience response?

How can sound and light design work together to create naturalistic effects?

Be prepared to discuss your use of “nature” in your production meeting.