

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

2010

Performance
Guide:
Educator Tips

Welcome to *The Turn of the Screw*

For a deeper experience, have students read Hatcher's play or James's novella before they attend the performance.

TIPS FOR EDUCATORS

Thank you for bringing your students to *The Turn of the Screw*! We created the Performance Guide to enrich our audience's experience; these tips will help you and your students get the most out of the guide.

PRE SHOW: PREPARE

In the days or weeks before students attend the performance, prepare them to see the show. Use these sections of the Performance Guide before your visit to *The Turn of the Screw*:

- Introduction
- Characters
- Synopsis
- Class & English Society
- Adaptation
- Activity: From Page to Stage

POST SHOW: REFLECT

After your students have seen the performance, it is important for them to reflect on their experience. The following sections of the guide will help students unpack the play:

- Activity: The Director's Vision
- Activity: The Trial of the Governess
- The Site



Discussion Questions

After the performance, use these prompts to start a class discussion about the play:

- Why did the playwright choose to write the play using only two actors?
- Did the governess ultimately protect Miles, or harm him?
- Why doesn't the uncle want to be part of the children's lives?
- What might Miles have done to get expelled from school?
- Why did the playwright choose to have the actors create all of the sound effects in the show?
- How did the performance space affect the mood and atmosphere of the play?

Teacher in Role

The Trial of the Governess activity is an engaging way to get students talking about the plot and the text. The activity requires a teacher to go into role as magistrate- use these tips to help you through the process:

- Make it clear when you are in character and when you are not. A simple prop can help with this (i.e. "when I am wearing my glasses I am in role as the Magistrate. When I take them off, I am your teacher again).
- Go in and out of role as much as you need to! Don't be afraid to stop the activity frequently to reflect or manage your class.
- Try out a persona contradictory to your everyday teaching style. If you're a warm, open teacher, try being a pushy and stern judge.
- If your students need more of a challenge, try being a corrupt magistrate. What happens if you are biased toward one side of the case?