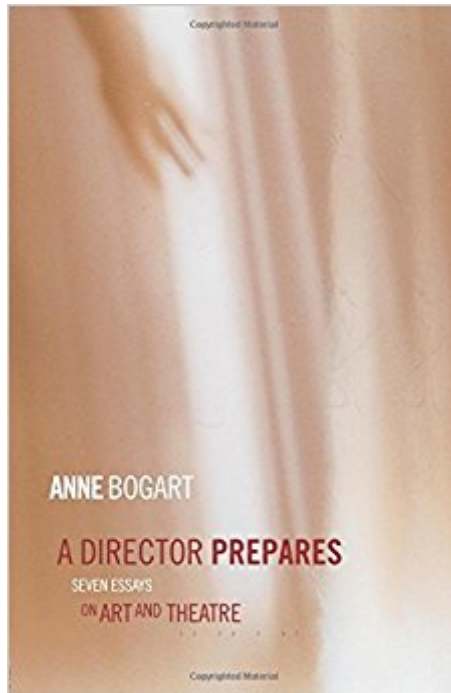




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# **A Director Prepares: Seven Essays On Art And Theatre**



## Synopsis

*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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 theater goer 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.

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.

I loved reading Anne Bogart's work. It is engaging and she has some wonderful insights. Great for directors and those working with actors. This was assigned for my directing course at university and I am very glad it was -A Director Prepares will hold a special place on my book shelf.

One of my favorite books of all time. Whether you're a student or professional theatre practitioner, this one belongs on your shelf. Was the required text for one of my undergrad directing classes, but just picked up this copy for a friend/colleague of mine and he nearly cried when he opened it. I would recommend this book for any artist, as it has encouraging and inspiring insights on creating theatre which could translate to other art forms.

Anne Bogart is such an inspiring practitioner and I find her essays refreshing / they are great to go back to when you are in the middle of a creative process as they can help shine a different light on issues at hand / this is my third copy of the book as I keep giving it away to other artists

I was locked in from the introduction. Anne Bogart is so poignant that I could see myself in every situation she describes. The points she makes about how to use your given circumstances is inspiring. This is a must read for any artist (but especially theatre artists and directors)!!!

This book forever changed my approach to the art I create, and it's especially effected my work as an educator. A must read for all theatre practitioners.

Arguably the best book on directing theatre ever written (and possibly one of the best book on

creativity). Anne Bogart is incisive and surgical in her use of language and she couples this with an insightful compassion and a red hot passion that makes for delightful reading. Should be required reading for any Directing or Theatre course.

A must have for anyone in theatre. Anne Bogart hits several points in the hammer.

I used to not give them any credit. I always thought of directors as the bosses of actors and the enemy of the writer (unless the director also wears one of these hats). But now I see they really are creative individuals.

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