

Religion is. Theatre. Is religion. Is Theatre...

Sunday, August 25 at 9:00 am in the Bloom Room

Theories made popular in the early twentieth century that drama evolved directly from ritual have been largely discredited. However, religious practices and dramatic presentations share many common elements: myth, themes, costume, storytelling, narration and/or reenactment, a playing/sacred space, and an audience. Religion works by creating and reenacting myths, using Joseph Campbell's definition of myth as "a metaphor for a mystery beyond human comprehension". As the myths are central to religion, so plays are central to theatre, and the manner in which plays come into being parallels the creation of myth in religion. Religion relates us to the forces that surround us by creating and reenacting myths. Theatre, no matter how "secular" its content, is in this sense of the word, religion. With that in mind, this presentation will look at the long, sometimes intimate, sometimes adversarial, relationship theatre has had with religion.

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