Cultural Matrix

Brandon Washington

Boise State University

Raquel Davis

Boise State University

**Cultural Matrix**

**Performance:**
- When and where was the play written: 1978, LOS ANGELES
- When and where first produced/Theatre structure: Actor's Theatre of Louisville, originally an old bank when production moved to Manhattan Theatre
- Author's input
- Critical expectation/critical reception: Won awards, Pulitzer, 1981, Club TONY Nomination
- Audience expectation/audience reception: Received well
- Subsequent performance history and reception: Louisville -> NY -> Regional Smash
- Place of text in culture/"mythology" of piece

**When play was written:** [1978, PLAY → SET IN 1974]
- Visual elements of period
- Architecture: "BRUTALIST" ARCHITECTURE, '50s - MID '70s
- Painting: REPEETITIVE, VIBRANT COLORS, HIGH-CONTRAST
- Sculpture: "NEW" FOUND OBJECTS
- Costume: VARYING STYLES, BELL-BOTTOMS
- Graphic Art, etc: SIMPLIFIED STYLE, REPETITIVE, RHYTHMIC
- Other Cultural Elements:
  - Historical events/chronology: VIETNAM, "A NEW RIGHT", WATERGATE
  - Written texts/novels/poetry
  - Music: BEATLES, LPS, FUNK, DISCO, HIP-HOP, PUNK, ROCK
  - Film: EXORCIST, CLOCKWORK ORANGE, CUCKOO'S NEST, MACH, GODFATHER
  - Popular culture: APPLE II
  - Psychological concerns
  - Sociological concerns: MARGINIZED GROUPS NOT BEING SEEN AS EQUALLY
  - Society/structures and constraints: UNEMPLOYMENT RISES
  - Rules unspoken by accepted: "NO RULES" - FREE LOVE, MAN
  - Structures of Hierarchy:
    - Legal
    - Governmental
    - Class/educational/financial
    - Family

**When play is set:** (explore all of above...if applicable)

**Biographical concerns**
- Life of author
- Psychological implications of above
- Place of given work in authors overall input
- Influences
Critical/interpretive structures
   New Criticism
   Post modernism/structuralism
   Gender/Queer Theory
   Freud/Jung
   Marx
   etc...

Theatre performance theory
   Brecht
   Meyerhold
   Stanislavsky
   Artaud
   Grotowski
   Peter Brook
   Forman
   etc...