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Cultural Matrix

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CRIMES OF THE HEART

BRANDON WASHINGTON

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
 Author's input WHEN PRODUCTION MOVED TO MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB
 Critical expectation/critical reception WON AWARDS, PULITZER! 1981 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 "BRITALIST" ARCHITECTURE, '50s → MID '70s
 Painting REPETITIVE, VIBRANT COLORS, HIGH-CONTRAST
 Sculpture "NEW", FOUND OBJECTS
 Costume VARYING STYLES, BELL-BOTTOMS
 Graphic Art, etc SIMPLIFIED STYLE, REPETITIVE, RHYTHMIC
 Other Cultural Elements: HURRICANE CAMILLE, VIETNAM! "A NEW RIGHT", WATERGATE
 Written texts/novels/poetry
 Music BEATLES LAST LP, FUNK, DISCO, HIP-HOP, PUNK ROCK
 Film EXORCIST, CLOCKWORK ORANGE, CLOCKPO'S NEST, MASH, GODFATHER
 Popular culture APPLE II
 Psychological concerns CULTURAL CHANGE
 Sociological concerns MARGINALIZED GROUPS NOT BEING SEEN AS EQUAL
 Society/structures and constraints UNEMPLOYMENT RISE
 Rules unspoken by accepted "NO RULES" - FREE LOVE!, MAN RE-ESTABLISH ORDER
 Structures of Hierarchy:
 Legal
 Governmental
 Class/educational/financial
 Family

MORE RESEARCH ABOUT TIME PERIOD

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...