**INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH**

**Drama Notes**

**The Nature of Drama**

* Drama: Four principle elements:
  + Live actors
  + Plot and/or story
  + Theatrical area (any place that can serve as a stage, but not just a stage)
  + Must result in a theatrical event (meaning there must be both actors and audience)

**Two Types of Drama**

* Comedy: conflict is usually not serious, ending is usually happy
* Tragedy: conflict is usually serious, ending usually in destruction of hero or heroine

**Developing a Character**

* Doing background research: looking at time, place, type of play, etc.
* Analyzing the Script
  + Look at:
    - Theme
    - Plot
    - Thoughts and problems
    - Characters’ reactions to other characters
    - Etc.
* Analyzing Character
  + Physical characteristics
  + Traits and emotions
  + Intelligence
  + Social and personal background
  + BELIEVABILITY: analyzing the character helps it become believable…if it is not believable, the play will not be a success
* Learning the Movements
  + BLOCKING: figuring out where actors should stand on stage
* Developing the Character’s Voice
  + Projection and volume
  + Attitude
  + Accent
* Exploring Character Relationship
  + Study the other characters as well to figure out how each character fits into the plot
* Recognizing the Relationship Between the Actor and Audience
* They are there to be entertained and/or educated
* If they are not, the play was not successful

**Organizing a Theatrical Event**

* Production Organization: the group that works together to put on a play.
* Producer: responsible for success or failure, has the power to make or overrule all decisions, often chooses the script, finances all or part of the production
* Director: stages the production, controls everything that happens on stage, arranges movements of actors
* Stage Manager: runs extra rehearsals, makes sure everyone is on time, notifies actors of extra rehearsals, posts calls, in charge of daily organization
* Scene Designer: designs and oversees creation of the set
* Lighting Designer: lights the actors and the set
* Costume Designer: designs and often makes the costumes
* Publicity Manager: in charge of getting info about play out to potential audience

**Producing a Theatrical Event**

* Casting
  + Auditions: held to determine who should get which part
  + Callbacks: held when more than one person could fit a part…actors are called back to read again before a final decision is made
* Rehearsals
  + First rehearsal generally a read-through
  + Gradually get more in-depth
  + Tech Week: held week before opening night
    - Costumes, lights, etc are all done to iron all last minute problems
* Opening Night
  + First performance
  + Director watches to figure out any problems that still need to be fixed