

What is a Dramaturge?

Example 1

A director is staging *Woyzech* by Buchner. A Dramaturge provides information on Expressionism which is the theatre practice related to the play. The director then decides, however, that having considered the research, she wants to direct it in a naturalistic style. The director's decision is made after the research NOT before. The Dramaturge does not have this information at the outset. The Dramaturge's job is to focus on the **theatre practice and the play**, not on how the director/actor/designer may choose to use this research.

Example 2

An actor is playing the Monkey King in a Kathakali production of a story from the *Ramayana*. The Dramaturge provides information to the actor on how this role is performed in this particular theatre practice. This will inform the actor and may or may not influence the final production for the director may choose to present the story in a different style. The actor would not have this information prior to rehearsal but still requires the research into the way this role is traditionally played to inform his work.

In both examples the research has provided information, but is NOT necessarily forming the basis of the production.

For this reason the student (the researcher/dramaturge) **should not make creative** decisions though, if relevant, may offer creative possibilities.

Brainstorm some examples for your Research Investigation below: