

Performing a Chamber Theatre Adaptation of Nick Joaquin's 'the Summer Solstice'

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Abstract : Chamber Theatre has been one of the least articulated staging devices in the field of theatre and performance studies. This creative exploratory-descriptive study responds to this gap by employing the staging technique in a Chamber Theatre production based on Nick Joaquin's *The Summer Solstice*. Specifically, this study opts to understand three processes involved in the Chamber Theatre creative thesis production of *The Summer Solstice* as performance: performance of the theatre-maker, performance of the spect-actors, and performance of the spectators. For this purpose, the theatre-maker describes the creative process of transforming *The Summer Solstice* text to a Chamber Theatre production—from text to staging. The theatre-maker also analyzes the performers' experiences and the spectators' responses as they participate in a Chamber Theatre performance. In doing so, the theatre-maker collects qualitative data from seventeen (17) performers and qualitative feedback from twenty (20) spectators. For the mode of data analysis, this study employed Ranciere's concept on the *Emancipated Spectator* (2008) and Schechner's *Performance Theory* (1988). The study's findings examine how the theatre-maker, the performers, and the spectators become distant viewers of their respective restored behavior performances. Through these viewed performances, this study implies that it is possible to ascertain a reasonable definition of purpose for Chamber Theatre. Hence, despite the existence of other modern staging devices in the field of theatre and performance studies, this study concludes that Chamber Theatre remains to be a relevant staging technique.

Keywords : adaptation of text, chamber theatre, experimental theater, oral interpretation

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