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The Future of Theatre

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The Future of Theatre

Despite not being a huge theatre fan, even I can recognize the new opportunities the pandemic has provided to actors, superfans, and moderate play enjoyers alike by adding to the accessibility of watching and creating plays. While some aspects of audience interaction and customization are removed through the addition of online modalities (whether it be recorded or over Zoom), new levels of personalization can be added between the playwright and actor who work in tandem to personalize the play to current times/certain individuals. Through personal monologues or mini plays with a limited set of actors, utilizing language/methods to incorporate the viewer as “part of the play,” a more personalized experience can be developed that is different from the one of the stage and the audience.

In addition, utilizing film techniques in recorded versions of plays, or even returning to the stage, can change the atmosphere of plays to come. With having to create props, sets, and costumes virtually, they are easily ‘portable’ and accessible to exchange between sets of actors across space and time. Recorded plays can utilize the medium of film to add unique techniques that cannot be replicated in live theatre, and it also adds accessibility by opening access to plays to anyone who can view them on the internet - rather than requiring a fee to view, or close locality to the theatre itself.

Returning to live theatre, lots of plays can easily be created on the shared experience and trauma of COVID, providing a wealth of media for generations to come and media for students to analyze on this experience. As education resources have been expanded during the pandemic, meaning you can learn just about anything online, playwrighting for this unique, shared experience is an easy gateway into the theatre community. Another unique method that can be

added is the dispelling of live plays from a physical location; what's stopping an actor from "zooming" in as a part of the play itself?