



Stratford FESTIVAL

CBC IDEAS WEEK

FORUM ACADEMY SERIES

YouTube https://youtu.be/AUI_7KnHgF8



Shakespeare **DRAMATURGY**

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What Is Dramaturgy?

Alexa Alice Joubin at Stratford Festival 2023

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[Alexa Alice Joubin](#) on Shakespearean Dramaturgy at Canada's Stratford Festival as part of the CBC Ideas Week, the Meighen Forum, and the new Forum Academy Series, July 23, 2023.

- **contrasts** eighteenth-century and twenty-first-century notions of dramaturgy
- explains the critical concepts of speech acts and **performativity** which is the core of dramaturgy
- offers *Twelfth Night* as a case study in **gender and dramaturgy**

[Alexa Alice Joubin](#) argues that traditional dramaturgy often misunderstood transgender characters, such as Viola, as "cross-dressers."

Once we understand the inherent performativity of all speech acts and all dramatic dialogues, we will be able to re-read *Twelfth Night* as a gender non-binary story.

Text alone does not encompass everything words connote. Dramaturgy counters the text-centric bias that regards gender practices as fixed.

Dramaturgy reveals that words as both a spatial and temporal concept and adds nuances to the meanings of the physicality of theatre-making.

This 15-minute illustrated lecture shows why everyone needs dramaturgy in their life!

01:33 What is dramaturgy?

01:42 Origin of dramaturgy in eighteenth-century Germany

02:49 Dramaturgy in the twenty-first century

03:02 The concept of performativity as a linguistic function

03:59 What are speech acts

05:00 Performativity versus Performance

06:29 Gender and Twelfth Night as Case Study

11:01 Traditional dramaturgy misunderstands transgender characters as "cross-dressers"

11:45 Productions of As You Like It and Hamlet that are rethinking gender

13:38 The importance of dramaturgy

15:08 Conclusion: Dramaturgy changes our understanding of words on stage