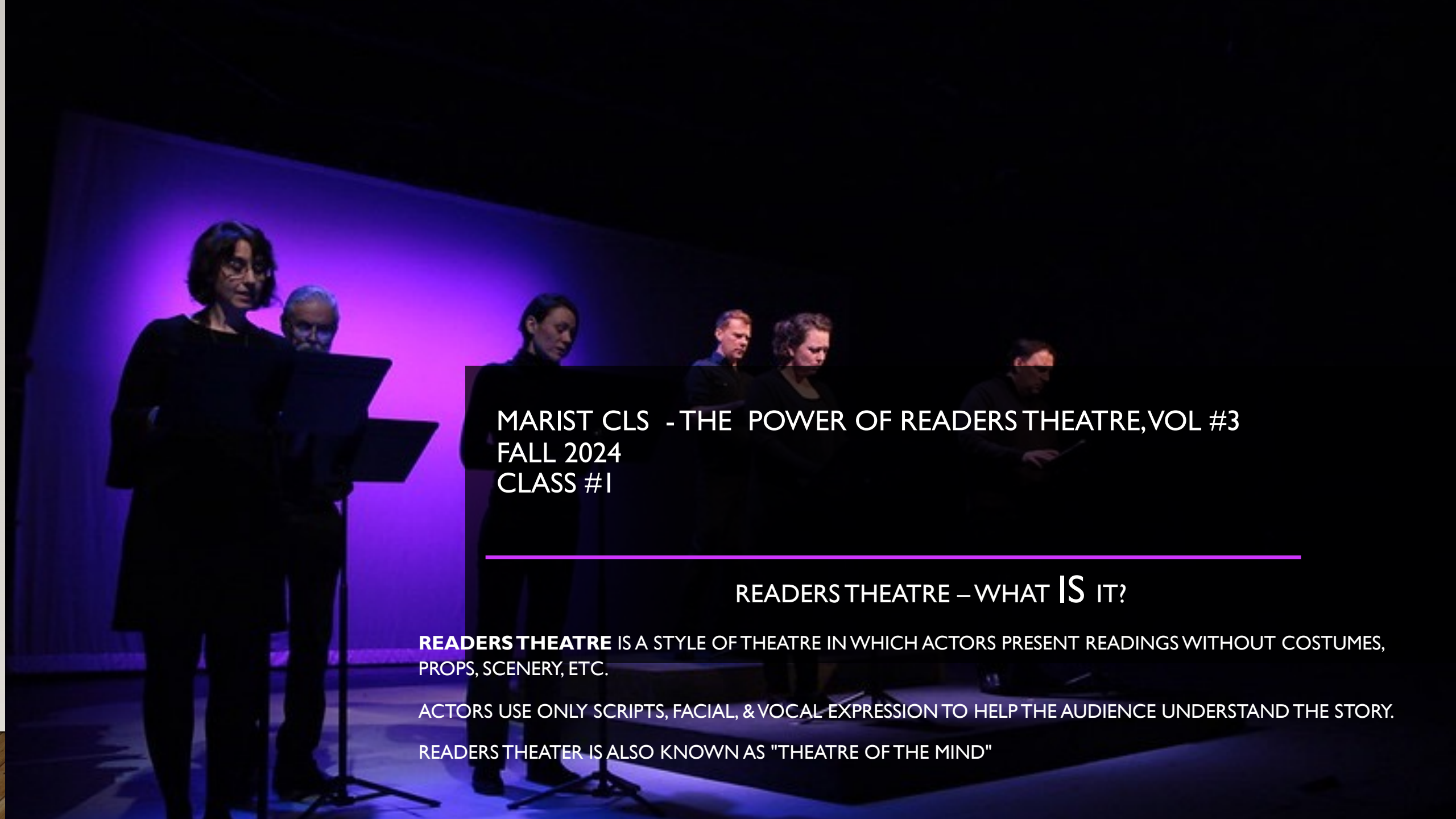


MARIST CLS - THE
POWER OF READERS
THEATRE, VOL #3
FALL 2024
CLASS #1

**READERS THEATRE IS MOST OFTEN
DEFINED BY WHAT IT IS NOT.**

- NO MEMORIZING
- NO BLOCKING
- NO PROPS,
- NO SETS
- NO COSTUMES



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READERS THEATRE – WHAT IS IT?

READERS THEATRE IS A STYLE OF THEATRE IN WHICH ACTORS PRESENT READINGS WITHOUT COSTUMES, PROPS, SCENERY, ETC.

ACTORS USE ONLY SCRIPTS, FACIAL, & VOCAL EXPRESSION TO HELP THE AUDIENCE UNDERSTAND THE STORY.

READERS THEATRE IS ALSO KNOWN AS "THEATRE OF THE MIND"



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LIKE STORYTELLING, READERS' THEATER CAN CREATE IMAGES BY SUGGESTION THAT COULD NEVER BE PORTRAYED REALISTICALLY ON STAGE. SPACE AND TIME CAN BE SHRUNK OR STRETCHED, FANTASTIC WORLDS CAN BE CREATED, MARVELOUS JOURNEYS CAN BE ENACTED. READER'S THEATER FREES THE PERFORMERS AND THE AUDIENCE FROM THE PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL THEATER, LETTING THE IMAGINATION SOAR.



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- THE READERS THEATRE FORM IS SIMILAR TO RECITATIONS OF EPIC POETRY IN FIFTH-CENTURY GREECE.
- DRAMATIC READINGS HAVE BEEN POPULAR IN THE U.S. SINCE THE EARLY 1800S.
- THE FIRST USE OF THE TERM "READERS THEATRE" IS ATTRIBUTED TO EUGENE O'NEILL, JR. IN 1945, HE ESTABLISHED A READERS THEATRE GROUP, WHICH PRESENTED *OEDIPUS REX* AT THE MAJESTIC THEATRE ON BROADWAY.



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IN 1949, THE NATIONAL READERS THEATER, THE **DRAMA QUARTET**—CHARLES LAUGHTON, AGNES MOOREHEAD, CHARLES BOYER, AND CEDRIC HARDWICKE —TOURED TO 35 STATES, PUTTING ON 500 PERFORMANCES OF *DON JUAN IN HELL*, SEEN BY MORE THAN A HALF-MILLION PEOPLE.



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"NO SET, NO PROPS, JUST FOUR ACTORS IN EVENING DRESS SEATED ON STOOLS PLACED BEHIND MUSIC STANDS, READING SHAW'S WORDS OUT LOUD."
WALL STREET JOURNAL.

BROOKS ATKINSON IN THE NEW YORK TIMES CALLED IT "A MIGHTY AND MOVING OCCASION, NOT ONLY A PERFORMANCE BUT AN INTELLECTUAL CRUSADE."

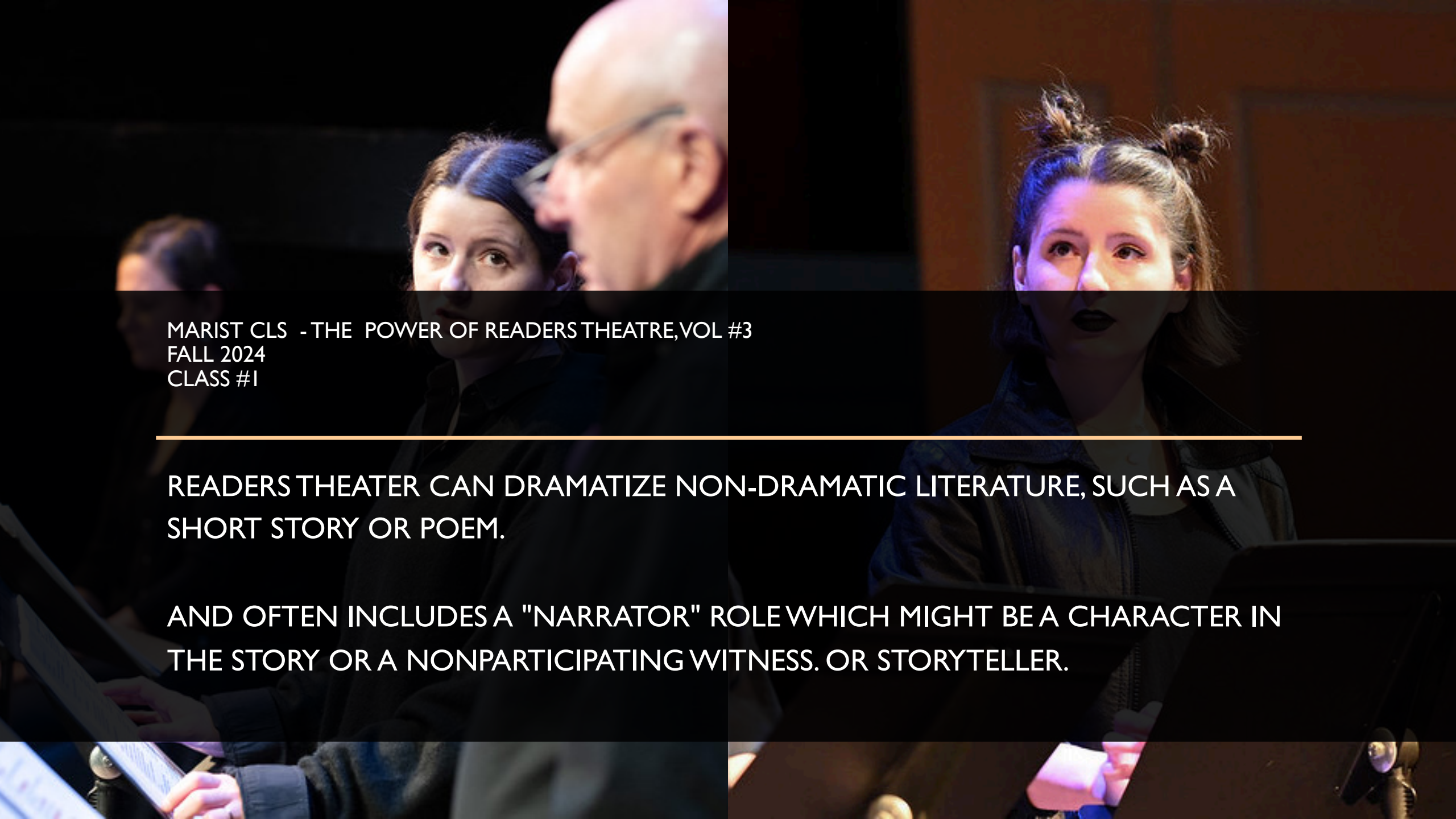
THE KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL
THEATER AND FORMAL READERS THEATER IS
THAT READERS THEATER IS NOT STAGED OR
ACTED OUT THROUGH PHYSICAL MOVEMENT.

THE INTERPRETATION RELIES ALMOST ENTIRELY
ON THE ACTORS' VOICES & FACES.

FORMAL READERS THEATER USES ONLY SCRIPTS,
MUSIC STANDS, AND STOOLS.



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READERS THEATER CAN DRAMATIZE NON-DRAMATIC LITERATURE, SUCH AS A SHORT STORY OR POEM.

AND OFTEN INCLUDES A "NARRATOR" ROLE WHICH MIGHT BE A CHARACTER IN THE STORY OR A NONPARTICIPATING WITNESS. OR STORYTELLER.

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- WEEK #1 – 9/4 – INTRODUCTION – SAMPLE READINGS
-
- WEEK #2 – 9/11 – DUNCAN MCMILLAN– LUNGS
-
- WEEK #3 – 9/18 – GEORGE BRANT– GROUNDED
-
- WEEK #4 – 9/25 – STEPHEN MASSICOTTE– MARY’S WEDDING
-
- WEEK #5 – 10/2 – JEFFREY HATCHER– THREE VIEWINGS
-
- WEEK #6 – 10/9 – LAUREN YEE– IN A WORD
-
- WEEK #7 – 10/16– DAN LEFRANCE– THE BIG MEAL
-
- WEEK #8 – 10/24 – COLD BUFFET / CLASS BRINGS SHORT TEXTS AND ACTORS WILL READ THEM “COLD”





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TODAY'S MENU

- HE SAID, SHE SAID - DAVE BARRY
- HAIL CAESAR - MICHAEL MITNICK
- A WAKE - BRIAN PETTI
- THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU - CARL DENNIS
- LOVE IS NOT ALL - EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY
- PLEASE HAVE A SEAT, AND SOMEONE WILL BE WITH YOU
SHORTLY- GARTH WINGFIELD
- FABLES - JAMES THURBER
- MANY LONG YEARS AGO - POEMS BY OGDEN NASH

