

**Ohio University Division of Theatre – Professional Director Training Program**  
**PDTP Reading List, Part Four**  
**The Compact Play List**

So there are 475 titles on the *compact* play list? Though it may seem a bit intimidating, keep in mind that the more comprehensive play reading list I make available is almost *three times as long*. Start reading. These scripts form the core of our dramatic repertoire, and as a stage director you will no doubt be working on a great number of them during the course of your career. A play takes about 90 minutes to read – roughly the duration of an episode and a half of *Lost* or *Desperate Housewives*. My point? Watch less television, read more plays. And when you're done with these, I'll be glad to pass on the long list. (P.S. This is in serious need of an update!)

**Classical Greece (12)**

Aeschylus	<i>The Oresteia (Agamemnon/Libation Bearers/The Eumenides)</i>
Aristophanes	<i>The Birds</i> <i>Lysistrata</i>
Euripides	<i>The Bacchae</i> <i>Medea</i> <i>The Trojan Women</i>
Sophocles	<i>Electra</i> <i>Oedipus Cycle (Oedipus Rex/Oedipus at Colonus/Antigone)</i>

**Classical Rome (3)**

Plautus	<i>The Menaechmi</i>
Seneca	<i>Thyestes</i>
Terence	<i>The Brothers</i>

**England (Medieval and Renaissance) (30)**

Anonymous	<i>Everyman</i> <i>Gammer Gurton's Needle</i> <i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i>
Thomas Dekker & Thomas Middleton	<i>The Roaring Girl</i>
John Ford	<i>'Tis Pity She's a Whore</i>
Ben Jonson	<i>Volpone, or The Fox</i>
Thomas Kyd	<i>The Spanish Tragedy</i>
Christopher Marlowe	<i>Doctor Faustus</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>As You Like It</i> <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> <i>Hamlet</i> <i>Henry IV, Parts One &amp; Two</i> <i>Henry V</i> <i>Julius Caesar</i> <i>King Lear</i> <i>Macbeth</i> <i>Measure for Measure</i> <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> <i>Othello</i> <i>Richard II</i> <i>Richard III</i> <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> <i>The Tempest</i> <i>Twelfth Night</i> <i>The Winter's Tale</i> <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>
John Webster	

**England (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries) (12)**

Aphra Behn	<i>The Rover</i>
Susanna Centlivre	<i>A Bold Stroke for a Wife</i>
William Congreve	<i>The Way of the World</i>
John Dryden	<i>All for Love</i>
George Farquhar	<i>The Beaux' Stratagem</i>
	<i>The Recruiting Officer</i>
John Gay	<i>The Beggar's Opera</i>
Oliver Goldsmith	<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>
George Lillo	<i>The London Merchant</i>
Richard Sheridan	<i>The Rivals</i>
	<i>The School for Scandal</i>
William Wycherley	<i>The Country Wife</i>

**England (19<sup>th</sup> Century and Pre-WWI 20<sup>th</sup> Century) (14)**

J.M. Barrie	<i>Peter Pan</i>
H. Granville-Barker	<i>Waste</i>
Somerset Maugham	<i>The Circle</i>
George Bernard Shaw	<i>Arms and the Man</i>
	<i>Candida</i>
	<i>Heartbreak House</i>
	<i>Major Barbara</i>
	<i>Man and Superman</i>
	<i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i>
	<i>Pygmalion</i>
	<i>Saint Joan</i>
Brandon Thomas	<i>Charley's Aunt</i>
Oscar Wilde	<i>An Ideal Husband</i>
	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>

**England (Post WWI to 1960) (15)**

John L. Balderston & Hamilton Deane	<i>Dracula</i>
Agatha Christie	<i>The Mousetrap</i>
Noel Coward	<i>Blithe Spirit</i>
	<i>Design for Living</i>
	<i>Private Lives</i>
T.S. Eliot	<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>
Christopher Fry	<i>The Lady's Not for Burning</i>
Patrick Hamilton	<i>Angel Street</i>
Frederick Knott	<i>Dial 'M' for Murder</i>
	<i>Wait Until Dark</i>
John Osborne	<i>Look Back in Anger</i>
J.B. Priestley	<i>An Inspector Calls</i>
R.C. Sheriff	<i>Journey's End</i>
Sutton Vane	<i>Outward Bound</i>
Emlyn Williams	<i>Night Must Fall</i>

**England (Post-1960) (52)**

John Arden	<i>Serjeant Musgrave's Dance</i>
Alan Ayckbourn	<i>Bedroom Farce</i>
	<i>Communicating Doors</i>
Peter Barnes	<i>Red Noses</i>
Alan Bennett	<i>The History Boys</i>
	<i>The Madness of King George III</i>
Robert Bolt	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>
Edward Bond	<i>Saved</i>
Jez Butterworth	<i>Mojo</i>
Caryl Churchill	<i>Cloud Nine</i>
	<i>Mad Forest</i>

Shelagh Delaney  
David Edgar  
Michael Frayn

Simon Gray  
Christopher Hampton  
David Hare  
Ronald Harwood  
Charlotte Jones  
Sarah Kane  
Mike Leigh  
Patrick Marber  
Stephen Marcus  
Peter Nichols

Joe Orton

Joe Penhall  
Harold Pinter

Mark Ravenhill  
Phillip Ridley  
Diane Samuels  
Anthony Shaffer  
Peter Shaffer

Tom Stoppard

David Storey  
Dylan Thomas  
Timberlake Wertenbaker  
Arnold Wesker  
John Whiting

**Canada (7)**

Brad Fraser  
Michael Healey  
John Herbert  
Ann-Marie MacDonald  
John Murrell  
Michel Tremblay  
George F. Walker

**Eastern Europe (7)**

S. Anski  
Karel Čapek  
Vaclav Havel  
H. Leivick  
Ferenc Molnár

Arthur Schnitzler

*Top Girls*  
*A Taste of Honey*  
*Nicholas Nickleby, Parts 1 & 2*  
*Copenhagen*  
*Noises Off*  
*Otherwise Engaged*  
*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*  
*Skylight*  
*The Dresser*  
*Humble Boy*  
*Blasted*  
*Abigail's Party*  
*Closer*  
*The Killing of Sister George*  
*A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*  
*Passion Play*

*Loot*  
*What the Butler Saw*  
*Blue/Orange*  
*Betrayal*  
*The Birthday Party*  
*The Caretaker*  
*The Homecoming*  
*Shopping and Fucking*  
*The Pitchfork Disney*  
*Kindertransport*  
*Sleuth*  
*Amadeus*  
*Equus*  
*The Royal Hunt of the Sun*  
*Arcadia*  
*The Invention of Love*  
*The Real Thing*  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*  
*Travesties*  
*The Changing Room*  
*Under Milk Wood*  
*Our Country's Good*  
*The Kitchen*  
*The Devils*

*Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*  
*The Drawer Boy*  
*Fortune and Men's Eyes*  
*Goodnight, Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)*  
*Waiting for the Parade*  
*Les Belles-soeurs*  
*Zastrozzi*

*The Dybbuk*  
*R.U.R.*  
*The Memorandum*  
*The Golem*  
*Liliom*  
*The Play's the Thing*  
*La Ronde*

**France (31)**

Jean Anouilh

Antonin Artaud  
Beaumarchais  
Albert Camus  
Pierre Corneille  
Alexandre Dumas  
Georges Feydeau  
Jean Genet

Jean Giraudoux  
Victor Hugo  
Eugène Ionesco

Alfred Jarry  
Eugene Labiche  
Pierre Marivaux

Molière

Jean Racine  
Edmond Rostand  
Jean-Paul Sartre  
Gilles Segal

**Germany (16)**

Bertolt Brecht

Bertolt Brecht & Kurt Weill

Georg Büchner

Friedrich Dürrenmatt  
Johann Goethe  
Gerhart Hauptmann  
Georg Kaiser  
Friedrich Schiller  
Frank Wedekind  
Peter Weiss

**Ireland (25)**

Sebastian Barry  
Brendan Behan  
Samuel Beckett

Dermot Bolger  
Marina Carr

*Antigone*  
*Beckett*  
*The Lark*  
*Ring Around the Moon*  
*Jet of Blood*  
*The Barber of Seville*  
*Caligula*  
*The Cid*  
*Camille*  
*A Flea in Her Ear*  
*The Balcony*  
*The Maids*  
*The Madwoman of Chaillot*  
*Hernani*  
*The Bald Soprano*  
*The Chairs*  
*The Lesson*  
*Rhinoceros*  
*Pere Ubu (or Ubu Roi)*  
*The Italian Straw Hat*  
*The Game of Love and Chance*  
*The Triumph of Love*  
*The Imaginary Invalid*  
*The Misanthrope*  
*The Miser*  
*The School for Wives*  
*Tartuffe*  
*Phaedre*  
*Cyrano de Bergerac*  
*No Exit*  
*The Puppetmaster of Lodz*

*The Caucasian Chalk Circle*  
*Galileo*  
*The Good Woman of Setzuan*  
*Mother Courage and Her Children*  
*Happy End*  
*The Threepenny Opera*  
*Danton's Death*  
*Woyzeck*  
*The Visit*  
*Faust, Parts 1 & 2*  
*The Weavers*  
*From Morn to Midnight*  
*Mary Stuart*  
*Spring Awakening*  
*Marat/Sade*

*The Steward of Christendom*  
*The Hostage*  
*Endgame*  
*Happy Days*  
*Krapp's Last Tape*  
*Waiting for Godot*  
*The Lament for Arthur Cleary*  
*Portia Coughlan*

Brian Friel

Lady Gregory  
Hugh Leonard  
Martin McDonagh

Frank McGuinness  
Conor McPherson  
Tom Murphy  
Sean O'Casey

J.M. Synge

William Butler Yeats & Lady Gregory

*Dancing at Lughnasa*  
*Translations*  
*The Rising of the Moon*  
*Da*  
*The Leenane Trilogy (The Beauty Queen of Leenane / A Skull  
in Connemara / The Lonesome West)*  
*The Pillowman*  
*Someone to Watch Over Me*  
*The Weir*  
*Bailegangaire*  
*Juno and the Paycock*  
*The Plough and the Stars*  
*The Playboy of the Western World*  
*One Acts: In the Shadow of the Glen / Riders to the Sea*  
*Cathleen ni Houlihan*

**Italy (7)**

Dario Fo  
Carlo Goldoni  
Carlo Gozzi  
Niccolo Machiavelli  
Luigi Pirandello

*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*  
*The Servant of Two Masters*  
*The Green Bird*  
*The Mandrake*  
*Enrico IV*  
*Six Characters in Search of an Author*  
*Tonight We Improvise*

**Russia (12)**

Leonid Andreyev  
Mikhail Bulgakov  
Anton Chekhov

Nikolai Erdman  
Nikolai Gogol  
Maxim Gorki  
Alexander Ostrovsky  
Leo Tolstoy  
Ivan Turgenev

*He Who Gets Slapped*  
*Flight*  
*The Cherry Orchard*  
*The Seagull*  
*The Three Sisters*  
*Uncle Vanya*  
*The Suicide*  
*The Inspector General*  
*The Lower Depths*  
*The Thunderstorm*  
*The Power of Darkness*  
*A Month in the Country*

**Scandinavia (9)**

Henrik Ibsen

August Strindberg

*A Doll's House*  
*An Enemy of the People*  
*Ghosts*  
*Hedda Gabbler*  
*Peer Gynt*  
*The Wild Duck*  
*A Dream Play*  
*The Father*  
*Miss Julie*

**Scotland (2)**

David Greig

David Harrower

*The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved  
in the Former Soviet Union*  
*Knives in Hens*

**Africa / South Africa (5)**

Athol Fugard

*The Blood Knot*  
*Boesman and Lena*  
*"Master Harold"...and the boys*

Wole Soyinka  
Derek Walcott

*Death and the King's Horseman*  
*Dream on Monkey Mountain*

**South America (2)**

Ariel Dorfman  
Manuel Puig

*Death and the Maiden*  
*The Kiss of the Spider Woman*

**Spain (4)**

Calderon de la Barca  
Federico Garcia Lorca

*Life is a Dream*  
*Blood Wedding*  
*The House of Bernarda Alba*  
*Fuente Ovejuna*

Lope de Vega

**United States (Pre-Eugene O'Neill) (12)**

George L. Aiken  
David Belasco  
George Henry Boker  
Dion Boucicault  
William Gillette  
Clyde Fitch  
James A. Herne  
Joseph Jefferson  
Percy MacKaye  
Anna Cora Mowatt  
W.H. Smith  
Royall Tyler

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*  
*The Girl of the Golden West*  
*Francesca da Rimini*  
*The Octoroon*  
*Secret Service*  
*The City*  
*Margaret Fleming*  
*Rip Van Winkle*  
*The Scarecrow*  
*Fashion*  
*The Drunkard*  
*The Contrast*

**United States (Eugene O'Neill through 1960) (73)**

George Abbott & John Cecil Holm  
Maxwell Anderson  
  
Robert Ardrey  
Philip Barry  
  
S.N. Behrman  
  
Clare Boothe  
Marc Connelly  
Marc Connelly & George S. Kaufman  
Ketti Frings  
Susan Glaspell  
Ruth Goetz & Augustus Goetz  
Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett  
Lorraine Hansberry  
Ben Hecht & Charles MacArthur  
Lillian Hellman  
  
Sidney Howard  
William Inge  
  
Robinson Jeffers  
Garson Kanin  
George S. Kaufman & Edna Ferber  
George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart

*Three Men on a Horse*  
*Elizabeth the Queen*  
*High Tor*  
*Winterset*  
*Thunder Rock*  
*Here Come the Clowns*  
*Holiday*  
*Hotel Universe*  
*The Philadelphia Story*  
*Biography*  
*The Second Man*  
*The Women*  
*Green Pastures*  
*Beggar on Horseback*  
*Look Homeward, Angel*  
*Trifles*  
*The Heiress*  
*The Diary of Anne Frank*  
*A Raisin in the Sun*  
*The Front Page*  
*The Children's Hour*  
*The Little Foxes*  
*They Knew What They Wanted*  
*Bus Stop*  
*Come Back, Little Sheba*  
*Dark at the Top of the Stairs*  
*Picnic*  
*Medea*  
*Born Yesterday*  
*The Royal Family*  
*The Man Who Came to Dinner*

Joseph Kesselring  
Sidney Kingsley  
Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee  
Archibald MacLeish  
Carson McCullers  
Arthur Miller

John Murray & Allen Boretz  
Clifford Odets

Eugene O'Neill

Elmer Rice

William Saroyan  
Robert Sherwood

John Steinbeck  
Sophie Treadwell  
John Van Druten  
Thornton Wilder

Tennessee Williams

*Once in a Lifetime*  
*You Can't Take It With You*  
*Arsenic and Old Lace*  
*Dead End*  
*Inherit the Wind*  
*J.B.*  
*The Member of the Wedding*  
*After the Fall*  
*All My Sons*  
*The Crucible*  
*Death of a Salesman*  
*Incident at Vichy*  
*A View from the Bridge*  
*Room Service*  
*Awake and Sing!*  
*Golden Boy*  
*Waiting for Lefty*  
*Ah, Wilderness!*  
*Beyond the Horizon*  
*Desire Under the Elms*  
*The Emperor Jones*  
*The Hairy Ape*  
*The Iceman Cometh*  
*Long Day's Journey into Night*  
*A Moon for the Misbegotten*  
*Mourning Becomes Electra*  
*The Adding Machine*  
*Street Scene*  
*The Time of Your Life*  
*Idiot's Delight*  
*The Petrified Forest*  
*Of Mice and Men*  
*Machinal*  
*Bell, Book and Candle*  
*Our Town*  
*The Skin of Our Teeth*  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
*The Glass Menagerie*  
*Night of the Iguana*  
*The Rose Tattoo*  
*A Streetcar Named Desire*  
*Summer and Smoke*

**United States (1960 and Beyond) (125)**

Edward Albee

David Auburn  
Jon Robin Baitz  
Eric Bogosian  
Pearl Cleage  
Nilo Cruz  
Steven Dietz  
Christopher Durang

*A Delicate Balance*  
*The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*  
*Three Tall Women*  
*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*  
*One-Acts: The American Dream/The Sandbox/The Zoo Story*  
*Proof*  
*The Substance of Fire*  
*Suburbia*  
*Blues for an Alabama Sky*  
*Anna in the Tropics*  
*Lonely Planet*  
*Baby with the Bathwater*  
*Betty's Summer Vacation*  
*Beyond Therapy*  
*The Marriage of Bette and Boo*

Margaret Edson  
Horton Foote

Maria Irene Fornes  
Charles Fuller  
Frank Galati  
Jack Gelber  
Rebecca Gilman  
Frank D. Gilroy  
James Goldman  
Philip Kan Gotanda  
Richard Greenberg  
John Guare

Stephen Adly Guirgis  
A.R. Gurney

Beth Henley  
David Hirson  
William M. Hoffman  
Tina Howe

David Henry Hwang  
Albert Innaurato  
Len Jenkin  
LeRoi Jones (Imamu Amiri Baraka)  
Moisés Kaufman

Arthur Kopit

Larry Kramer  
Tony Kushner

Neil LaBute  
Warren Leight  
Tracy Letts

Ira Levin  
David Lindsay-Abaire  
John Logan  
Kenneth Lonergan  
Craig Lucas

Charles Ludlam  
Ken Ludwig  
David Mamet

Emily Mann  
Donald Margulies

Steve Martin  
Terence McNally

Mark Medoff  
Jason Miller

One-Acts: *Sister Mary Ignatius... / The Actor's Nightmare*  
*Wit*  
*The Trip to Bountiful*  
*The Young Man from Atlanta*  
*The Conduct of Life*  
*A Soldier's Play*  
*The Grapes of Wrath*  
*The Connection*  
*Spinning into Butter*  
*The Subject Was Roses*  
*The Lion in Winter*  
*Ballad of Yachiyo*  
*Three Days of Rain*  
*The House of Blue Leaves*  
*Six Degrees of Separation*  
*Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> Street*  
*The Cocktail Hour*  
*The Dining Room*  
*Crimes of the Heart*  
*La Bête*  
*As Is*  
*Coastal Disturbances*  
*Painting Churches*  
*Pride's Crossing*  
*M. Butterfly*  
*Gemini*  
*Dark Ride*  
*Dutchman*  
*Gross Indecency*  
*The Laramie Project*  
*Indians*  
*Oh Dad, Poor Dad...*  
*Wings*  
*The Normal Heart*  
*Angels in America, Parts 1 & 2*  
*The Illusion*  
*The Shape of Things*  
*Side Man*  
*Bug*  
*August: Osage County*  
*Deathtrap*  
*Fuddy Meers*  
*Never the Sinner*  
*This Is Our Youth*  
*The Dying Gaul*  
*Reckless*  
*The Mystery of Irma Vep*  
*Lend Me a Tenor*  
*American Buffalo*  
*Glengarry Glen Ross*  
*A Life in the Theatre*  
*Execution of Justice*  
*Dinner with Friends*  
*Sight Unseen*  
*Picasso at the Lapin Agile*  
*Love! Valour! Compassion!*  
*Master Class*  
*Children of a Lesser God*  
*That Championship Season*



Marsha Norman  
Suzan-Lori Parks

Bernard Pomerance  
David Rabe

José Rivera  
Paul Rudnick  
Robert Schenkkan  
Ntozake Shange  
John Patrick Shanley  
Wallace Shawn  
Sam Shepard

Martin Sherman  
Larry Shue  
Nicky Silver  
Neil Simon

Anna Deavere Smith  
Ted Tally  
Alfred Uhry  
Luis Valdez  
Paula Vogel

Joseph A. Walker  
Naomi Wallace  
Wendy Wasserstein  
Michael Weller  
Mac Wellman  
August Wilson

Lanford Wilson

George C. Wolfe  
Doug Wright  
Mary Zimmerman  
Paul Zindel

*'Night, Mother*  
*In the Blood*  
*Topdog/Underdog*  
*Venus*  
*The Elephant Man*  
*Hurlyburly*  
*Streamers*  
*Sueño*  
*I Hate Hamlet*  
*The Kentucky Cycle*  
*for colored girls who've considered suicide...*  
*Doubt*  
*Aunt Dan and Lemon*  
*Buried Child*  
*Curse of the Starving Class*  
*Fool for Love*  
*A Lie of the Mind*  
*The Tooth of Crime*  
*True West*  
*Bent*  
*The Foreigner*  
*The Food Chain*  
*Biloxi Blues*  
*Brighton Beach Memoirs*  
*Lost in Yonkers*  
*The Odd Couple*  
*The Sunshine Boys*  
*Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*  
*Terra Nova*  
*The Last Night of Ballyhoo*  
*Zoot Suit*  
*The Baltimore Waltz*  
*How I Learned to Drive*  
*The River Niger*  
*One Flea Spare*  
*The Heidi Chronicles*  
*Loose Ends*  
*7 Blowjobs*  
*Fences*  
*The Piano Lesson*  
*Balm in Gilead*  
*Book of Days*  
*5<sup>th</sup> of July*  
*Talley's Folly*  
*The Colored Museum*  
*Quills*  
*Metamorphoses*  
*The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*