

Drama and the SDA Church:

Appendix 2

DEFINITIONS

Actor - “*n.* He that acts or performs; an active agent. 2. He that represents a character or acts a part in a play; a stage player.” *American Dictionary of the English Language*. Noah Webster 1828, Vol. I, p. 3.

Actor - “*n* ... **1** : one that acts: DOER **2 a** : one who represents a character in a dramatic production **b** : a theatrical performer **c** : one that behaves as if acting a part.” *Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1984, p. 54.

Hypocrite - *Strong’s Concordance*: **5273**, hupokrites (hoop-ok-ree-tace’); from 5271; an actor under an assumed character (stage-player), i.e. (figuratively) a dissembler (“hypocrite”): **5271**, hupokrinomai (hoop-ok-rin'-om-ahee); middle voice from 5259 and 2919; to decide (speak or act) under a false part, i.e., (figuratively) dissemble (pretend): KJV-- feign.

NOTE: Every time the word is used in the New Testament, it was used by Jesus. It is found fourteen times in Matthew, one time in Mark, and five times in Luke, each time referring to the Pharisees.

It is interesting to note that the Greek word *hypocrite*, used for some two thousand years, defines an individual as an actor who assumed another character or a stage-player. The definitions for actor used in 1828 and 1984 also define an actor as a stage-player. An *actor* or *hypocrite* will be pursued in depth later.

Drama - “*n.* [Gr •••μ•, from ••••, to make.] a poem or composition representing a picture of human life, and accommodated to action. The principal species of the drama are tragedy and comedy: inferior species are tragi-comedy, opera, & etc.” *American*, 1828, Vol. I, p. 67.

Drama - “*n* [LL *dramt-*, *drama*, fr Gr, deed, drama, fr. *dran* to do, act] ... **1** : a composition in verse or prose intended to portray life or character or to tell a story usu. involving conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue and typically designed for theatrical performance.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 381.

Dramatize - “*v. t.* To compose in the form of the drama; or to give to a composition the form of a play.” *American*, 1828, Vol. I, p. 67.

Dramatize - “*vt* ... **1** : to adapt (as a novel) the theatrical presentation **2** : to present or represent in a dramatic manner.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 381.

Fiction - “*n.* [L, *fictio*, from *finigo*, to feign.] 1. The act of feigning, inventing or imagining; as, by the mere *fiction* of the mind. *Stillingfleet*. 2. That which is feigned, invented or imagined. The story is a *fiction*.” *American*, 1828, Vol. I, p. 82.

Fiction - “*n* **1 a** : something invented by the imagination or feigned; *specif* : an invented story **b** : fictitious literature (as novels or short stories) **2** : an assumption of a possibility as a fact irrespective of the question of its truth {a legal ~ } **3** : the action of feigning or of creating with the

imagination.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 460.

NOTE: Since acting, drama, plays and theatrical performance frequently use fiction, this subject will be expanded later.

Play - “*n.* 7. A dramatic composition; a comedy or tragedy; a composition in which characters are represented by dialogue and action. 8. Representation or exhibition of a comedy or tragedy; as, to be at the *play*. He attends every *play*.” *American*, 1828, Vol. II, p. 36.

Play - “*n* 7 **a** : the stage representation of an action or story **b** : a dramatic composition : DRAMA.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 902.

Play - “*v. i.* 14. To act a part on the stage; to personate a character. ‘a lord will hear you *play* to-night’. *Shak.* 15. To represent a standing character. ‘Courts are theaters where some men *play*.’ *Donne.* *American*, 1828, Vol. II, p. 36.

Play *vi* 3 **b** (1) : to act in a dramatic production (2) : SHOW, RUN {what’s ~ *ing* at the theater}.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 902.

Theater - “*n.* 1. Among *the ancients*, a edifice in which spectacles or shows were exhibited for amusement of spectators. 2. In *modern times*, a house for the exhibition of dramatic performances, as tragedies, comedies and farces; a play-house; comprehending the stage, the pit, the boxes, galleries and orchestra.” *American*, 1828, Vol. II, p. 92.

Theater - “*n* 1 **a** : an outdoor structure for dramatic performances or spectacles in ancient Greece and Rome **b** : a building for dramatic performances **c** : a building or area for showing motion pictures.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 1222.

Theatric, Theatrical - “*a.* Pertaining to a theater or to scenic representations; resembling the manner of dramatic performers; as *theatrical* dress; *theatrical* performances; *theatrical* gestures.” *American*, 1828, Vol. II, p. 91.

Theatrical, also **Theatric** *adj* ... **1** : of or relating to the theater or the presentation of plays {a ~ costume) **2** : marked by pretense or artificiality of emotion.” *Webster’s*, 1984, p. 1222.