

For the second part of the course of The History of the Theatre, students were required to write a research paper about the original production of a play. Being a theatre major obtaining a second major in French, I automatically gravitated towards the opportunity to **combine** my two loves, the theatre and the French language, by researching and writing about a French play.

The assignment and the **ambition** of the paper was to do in-depth research on a play of your choice and describe every last detail of that play's original production. After a brief overview of the play *Tiger at the Gates* by the French playwright Jean Giraudoux in class, I became intrigued as to why such a play could be so infamous.

Upon beginning the research for the paper I enthusiastically grabbed the first copy I could find written in French to get a perspective of the play as was originally intended, before translation.

This aided me later on in my writing as I grasped a deeper understanding of some of the references, comedic moments, **and intents** of the playwright not easily translated from French to English.

After reading the play I realized I needed a deeper insight to what was occurring at the time in France politically. I grabbed books such as *From Versailles to Pearl Harbor: The Origins of the Second World War in Europe* and *French Drama of the Inter-War Years* to gain a better understanding of what was happening between France and other countries during the time the play was written **as well as** what was occurring in France itself. This part of my research gave me a clearer understanding of the **inspiration** for Jean Giraudoux's writing process and the effect the play had on the first audience. The play speaks strongly of the relationship between war and peace and, through my research, I noticed correlations between the beginnings of the Second World War and the events that occur in *Tiger at the Gates*. Increasing tensions between France and Germany before the war and the war between Troy and Greece in the play. The romantic relationship between Helen and Paris mirrored the indecisive French government as the Germans remilitarized the Rhineland.

Every last detail possible was to be recorded in my paper on the play *Tiger at the Gates*, therefore, extensive research of scholarly texts was done to gain the most accurate and thorough information. My research consisted of historical, political, and theatrical reviews, studies, and analyses **from the French theatre** to the state of Europe after the First World War. The knowledge I gained not only allowed me to craft a paper that gave a deeper insight into the play, past the general information of scenery, costumes, lights, and audience, but also allowed me to understand the basis from

which the play was **created**, as well as Giraudoux's direction and relationship with **the** other designers and actors who were a part of the first **production of** *La Guerre de Troie N'Aura Pas Lieu*.

LA GUERRE  DE
TROIE
N'AURA PAS LIEU

De Jean GIRAUDOUX

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