Agenda for Thu., Sep. 2
• Take attendance, etc.
• Introduction to theater
• Start discussing M. Butterfly, Acts I and II
• Watch clips from the film adaptation of M. Butterfly

Drama
• Play – a story meant to be performed onstage or in a theater in front of an audience
  – Collaborative production
  – Collective reception

10 Traits of Theater
• A live event
• Actors
• Audience
• A particular place
• A particular time
• The present tense
• A predetermined structure
• Understood conventions
• Communication through all five senses
• A lasting impact

Reading a Play
• List of characters (and cast)
• Structure (acts, scenes, lines)
• Dialogue
• Stage directions (in italics)
• Other resources – e.g., prop list, author’s notes, etc.

Tips for Reading a Play
• Slow down
• Mark it up and make it your own
• Visualize the characters and the setting
• Research historical contexts
• Be the director

David Henry Hwang (b. 1957)
Intertextuality
- Relationship between texts

M. Butterfly
Shi Pei Pu and Bernard Boursicot

Intertextuality

Metatheatricality
- When a play comments on itself as a play or on theatricality in general
  - Breaking the fourth wall – Gallimard and Song directly address us, the audience (I.3, II.11)
  - The play-within-a-play – Gallimard re-performs Madama Butterfly (I.3)

Orientalism
- An “exotic or imperialistic view of the East” (85)
  – The “East” as the opposite of the “West” (I.7, II.3)
- Intersections of race, gender, and sexuality (I.3, I.6, I.10)