

THEATRICAL DENTISTRY: REDEFINING PROSTHETIC PRACTICE

Anuruti Uniyal¹

1.Post Graduate Student, Department of Prosthodontics, Seema Dental College & Hospital, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

ABSTRACT:

The practice of prosthodontics has been dedicated to reaching the magnificence of nature in the artificial. A prosthodontist strives to achieve excellence in creating the natural form of maxillofacial regions that nature has lost. However, a peculiar field which has been quite interestingly accepted as an offshoot of prosthetic dentistry is the theatrical dentistry. This short communication introduces the relevance of the art and science of practicing prosthetics in the field of theatre.

Key words: Theatrical dentistry, Theatrical prostheses.

Esthetics, pleasing looks and dentistry have always been inseparable to each other. A mere thought of some restorative dental treatment rings an alarm in the patient's mind about its esthetic aspect. Emergence and development of cosmetic dentistry is a direct consequence of the beauty conscious mindset of people in general. One of the lesser explored field of dentistry is Theatrical Dentistry; a field highly contrasting with the cosmetic dentistry.

Theatrical dentistry includes skilled un-cosmetic treatment for the creation of the best imperfect smiles, missing, broken & crooked teeth and scary facial prosthesis to portray the characters being performed. The fright that ghost



prosthesis of a performing artist instils in the minds of the audience is the result of the professional acumen of a dental expert and is a fine example of a perfect blend of art and science.

Extensive advancement has been made in this science over the years to make the un-natural look more and more natural. With the advent of newer and better materials, the life-like appearance of the maxillofacial prostheses. Scope of theatrical dentistry has a wide range and application in the modern world. It in fact has travelled out of the theatre and has extensively invaded the toy industry as well. The market is flooded with numerous toy masks and dental prostheses etc. to amuse all age groups.

Hundreds of people can be seen wearing mask of their leader at the political rallies.

Theatrical dentistry is the creation of dental appliances with missing, broken and crooked teeth and scary facial prosthesis to better reflect the characters being performed.

It is the science of creating a supernatural figment of imagination and bringing it to life not only in the theatre but also in the audience's minds. The theatrical science is indeed very challenging. It not only requires a thorough knowledge of the normal anatomy and physiology of the human body, but also demands a deep

sense of colour and texture differentiation. Only an art and science expert with appropriate skills and a background of the knowledge of the facial features can create a theatrical prosthesis which brings about a radical change in the appearance of the performer.

Appropriately stated, "Whatever the mind can conceive, it can achieve." We can create and instil vitality to the theatrical prostheses with the skills acquired during the fabrication of the maxillofacial prostheses. All that is required is to set the tamed horses of the mind free.
