



World Theatre Day: Celebrating the Power of the Stage

Observed every year on March 27, World Theatre Day honours the timeless art of storytelling through performance. Established by the International Theatre Institute in 1961, the day recognises theatre's role in reflecting society, sparking dialogue and inspiring change. From grand auditoriums to intimate community stages, theatre brings together actors, writers, directors and audiences in a shared cultural experience. Special performances, workshops and public readings are organised worldwide to celebrate dramatic arts and encourage new talent. World Theatre Day is a tribute to creativity, collaboration and the enduring magic of live performance that continues to captivate generations.

#GEORGES SEURAT

Sunday afternoon on the island of La Grande Jatte

This isn't a zoo! And that monkey isn't an accident. It is a code for sexual desires and by putting him on a leash, Seurat keeps the primitive nature of people in check



Do you know this painting? Good, because after this short story you will never see in the same way again. And that's because where most people might see a Sunday afternoon on the island of La Grande Jatte, as an innocent depiction of a sunny day at the park, those in the 'know' know that this park was a popular place to procure prostitutes.

A fact that Georges Seurat knew too well, and through a litany of secret suggestions, he would make this masterpiece one of the most scandalous artworks ever made. There are people dancing and rowing and playing music, walking their monkey? This isn't a zoo! And that monkey isn't an accident. It is a code for sexual desires and by putting him on a leash, Seurat keeps the primitive nature of people in check.

Humans behaving like animals, but not here because the lady and her gentleman are esteemed proponents of bourgeois ideals. Their fancy hats, her parasol. An accentuated back-end to enhance her best assets, and where the modern eye might say that this was the fashion of the time, the exaggeration of her silhouette gives her the feeling of a courtesan.

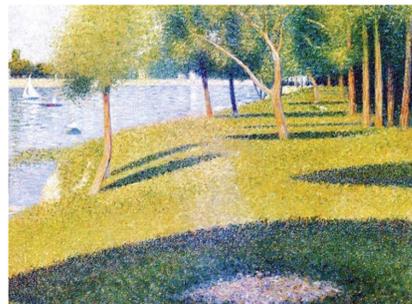
And now, the monkey really makes sense. The wild posture of an untamed animal on the cusp of pouncing onto his

poor pup, countered by the confines of a leash and the rigidity of his keepers and the rig is up. The artificiality of performative decadence, a nod to the shadow realm, lived out in broad daylight, and all because you wouldn't want to get caught by the police.

Fishing became an activity to disguise sinister intentions but consider the double meaning. Fishing, as a literal action, is to catch a fish. Catch a partner. To lure a customer. And it is not that impressive, as far as symbols go, until you give a little deeper.

As it so happens in French, the infinitive form of fishing, to fish, is *pecher*. The infinitive form of to sin is *pecher*. The linguistic pun of a lifetime, that achieves the exact ambiguity required to make this action feel sneaky. Two words, two drastically different definitions, that serve as the hidden engine for the entire piece. The leisurely activity on the social surface is directly tied to the social undercurrent, effectively closing the loop on the sexual economy that lives inside the composition.

The seekers and the providers are in an infinite loop around the venue, the island and you are just as guilty as the rest. But you are not that clever. You have been caught. The only innocent creature in the entire picture is in her brilliant white dress, and even before you could spot her, she spots you.



The Four Temperaments Yourself, Your Team, and Your Boss

• Verna Mohon

A few years ago, I was leading a team with a mix of strong personalities. There was the extroverted, high-energy Product Manager who loved brainstorming out loud (let's call her Sarah), and the quiet but detail-oriented developer who preferred working alone (we'll call him Alex). In meetings, Sarah would dominate the discussion, while Alex barely spoke. Over time, I noticed Alex growing disengaged, feeling overwhelmed while Sarah was frustrated, feeling overworked and unappreciated.

I faced a classic leadership challenge: how do you get different personalities to work together effectively? In this article, I will discuss a classic leadership framework, *The Four Temperaments*, a framework that helped me understand not just my own leadership style, but also my team and my boss. Once I adjusted my approach, our team dynamic improved dramatically. The Four Temperaments can help you become:

- **More self-aware**- knowing how your own temperament shapes your leadership style.
- **More people aware**- understanding your team, stakeholders, and even your boss to build better relationships.

Let's dive into each temperament and see how they show up in real life.

Understanding The Four Temperaments

The Four Temperaments theory dates back to ancient Greece, originally proposed by Hippocrates around 400 BCE.

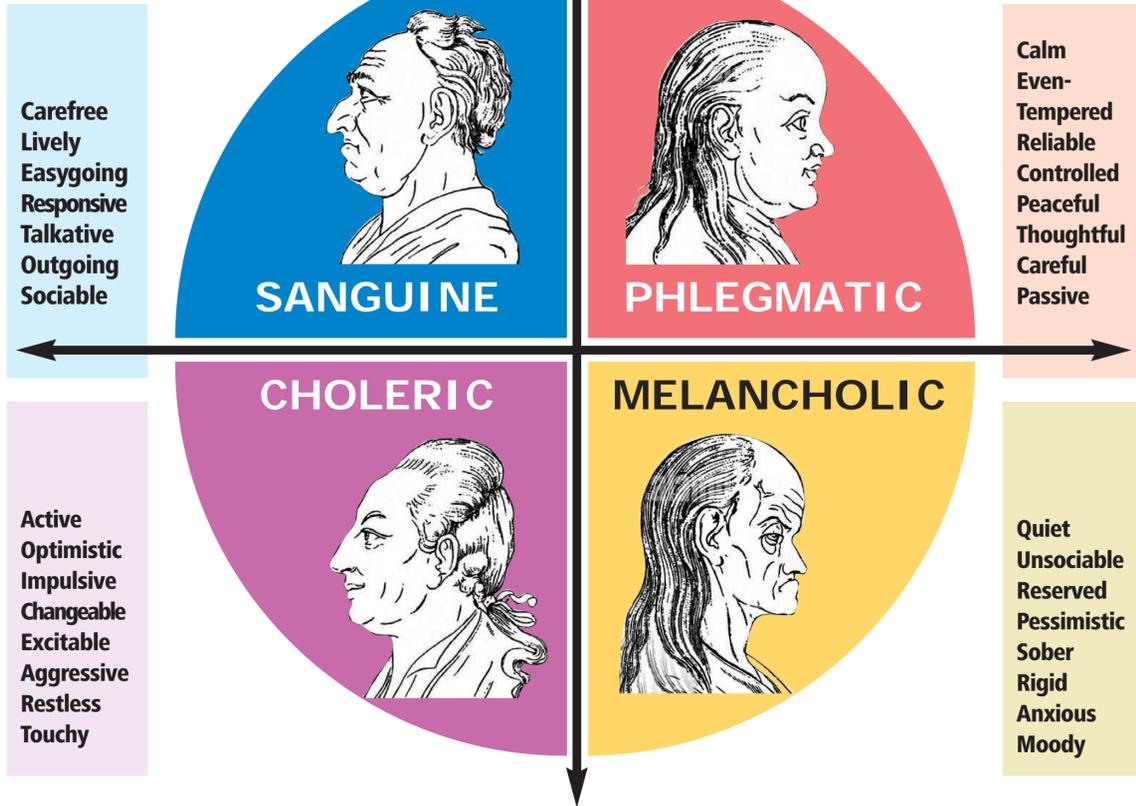
He believed that human behaviour was influenced by four bodily fluids: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile, and that an imbalance among them led to different personality types: sanguine (optimistic), phlegmatic (calm), choleric (ambitious), and melancholic (thoughtful).

Decoding Personalities: Sanguine, Choleric, Melancholic, Phlegmatic

In this section, we will dive deeper into each of the four personality types, their traits, and how you can show up if you associate with each type.

The Sanguine Leader: The Social Butterly

Sanguine leaders are high-energy and expressive, thriving in social



#PERSONA

settings. They love engaging with people, whether rallying a team, networking with stakeholders, or leading an exciting brainstorming session. Their natural charisma and optimism make them great at inspiring others.

However, their enthusiasm can sometimes lead to a lack of focus. They may jump from one idea to another and struggle with follow-

through, which can be challenging when structure is needed. Imagine a startup CEO who has a Sanguine temperament. She would likely be a magnet for investors and employees alike, ener-

gizing the company with lively town hall and creative brainstorming sessions. Who doesn't want to be with such a personality? Yet, her enthusiasm could potentially overshadow her ability to provide a structure and process for actual deliverables, resulting in half-finished projects or constantly changing priorities.

Takeaway

If you're a Sanguine leader, consider pairing up with someone who is more detail-oriented. Balance your natural energy with a clear plan for execution.

The Choleric Leader: The Determined Achiever

Choleric leaders are natural-born achievers. They are results-driven, decisive, and thrive on challenges. Their strong will and competitive spirit drive rapid progress and clear goals. However, this intensity can make

them come across as blunt or impatient. When expectations are high, team members who need more support might feel overwhelmed or undervalued. Consider a sales director with a

Choleric temperament. He pushes his team relentlessly to meet ambitious sales targets, and his direct approach often produces impressive results. Yet, this high-pressure environment results in stress and burnout for some team members. The relentless focus on results overlooked the need to support and recognize the team members.

Takeaway

If you're a Phlegmatic leader, work on your assertiveness. Address issues early on with kindness but firmness to prevent small problems from growing into larger conflicts.

The Phlegmatic Leader: The Steady Diplomat

Phlegmatic leaders are the calm, stabilizing force in any team. They excel at maintaining harmony and mediating conflicts, providing a reliable and supportive presence. Their preference for peace and harmony can create a stress-free environment, though it may unintentionally promote a suppressive culture where team members don't feel psychologically safe to raise their concerns or call out the elephants in the room.

Imagine a project manager with a Phlegmatic temperament. She is known for keeping the team environment calm and supportive. However, when a team member underperforms, she might hesitate to address the issue directly (to avoid rocking the boat). As you can imagine, if this continues over time, it could breed team resentment and impact deliverables.

Takeaway

If you're a Melancholic leader, set realistic deadlines and trust your team to deliver good work. Remember, sometimes 'done' is better than 'perfect'.

The Melancholic Leader: The Thoughtful Strategist

Melancholic leaders are analytical and deeply thoughtful. They excel in strategic planning and attention to detail, and their pursuit of excellence often results in high-quality outcomes. However, their tendency to overanalyze and seek perfection can slow down decision-making. Their need to be perfect may result in overlooking passing opportunities. Imagine a software engineering manager with a Melancholic temperament. He holds a high bar on quality, and insists on refining every product feature before launch to ensure quality. While his high standards elevate the overall quality of the product, it also slows down releases and frustrates teams and customers who favour speed and agility.

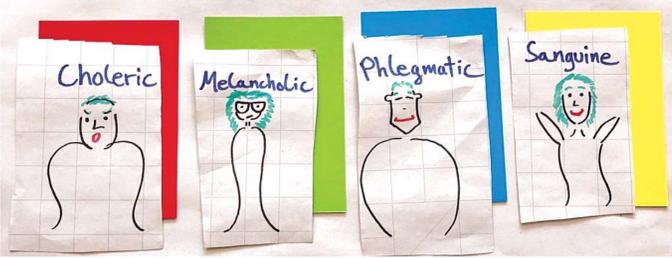
Takeaway

If you're a Choleric leader, take time to listen actively and acknowledge your team's efforts. A bit of empathy and positive reinforcement can go a long way.

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#REMBRANDT

A Symbolic Choreography

Pure theatre, and come to think of it, the painting does feel a bit theatrical. And in the place of heroic warriors, Rembrandt highlights regular men



No matter how many times you have looked at this painting by Rembrandt, I would be willing to wager to a high degree of certainty that you have missed the dog. What he is doing there? He is being a dog.

But also, he is a little bit of a humorous fixture because dogs, as far as militias go, were common companions. A sort of tradition in painting and Rembrandt, in a painting about the tradition of the Civil Guard, muskets and pikes. A glance at different eras and customs that have brought us from then to now. A company of brave men that have protected the city of Amsterdam for centuries, who marched to the beat of the

drum, as they ready themselves for mobilization. So, why the girl, and why is she highlighted with the same luminous glow as the central leadership at the centre of the painting? She is a mascot. An allegory. A representation of the institution, and by highlighting her with the same clarity as Captain Cocq and the Lieutenant, Rembrandt emphasizes that no one man is above tradition.

The claws of the dead chicken that hangs from her belt, an emblem of the Musketeers Guild, and by lightning her unarmoured, in a narrative form, Rembrandt emphasizes her role as a symbol, because though she is not real, this time honoured tradition is. And by all accounts, *The Night Watch* is a fantastic tribute to these brave men, if you ignore the fact that there is a possibility that Rembrandt was also maybe taking the piss.

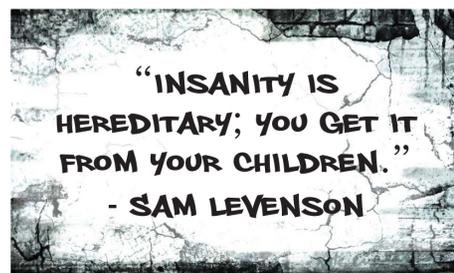
Those pikes and swords and men in old traditional armour, that could be viewed as a nod to an older time, might also point out that this very tradition has now been rendered useless. It is outdated and no longer necessary, and one that has been kept alive to protect camaraderie of these men instead of actually protecting the citizens of the city. Pure theatre, and come to think of it, the painting does feel a bit theatrical. And in the place of heroic warriors, Rembrandt highlights regular men, in the place of order, he gives us an unorganized chaos, and he even slips a cameo of himself into the work, so, how serious could it be? We will never really know?

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THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

