

Year 9 Curriculum Overview Drama 2023-24

Year 9 Drama 2 Lessons a fortnight	Term 1	Term 2		Term 3
Unit Title	Status and Power	Theatre Practitioners	Devising Drama	Commedia Dell'arte
Approximate Number of Lessons	14 Lessons	6 Lessons	6 Lessons	14 Lessons
Curriculum Content	Students will explore how status and power is demonstrated within performances, as well as real life scenarios. Students will be introduced to proxemics and how we can use the study of space to help show relationships, power and status. In the second half term, students will study extracts from plays that feature status and power.	Students will learn about different theatre practitioners and their beliefs about theatre. Students will apply their knowledge to practical performances.	Students will learn how theatre practitioners can use a stimulus as a starting point for a performance. They will explore how performances have different intentions and will develop their own performances using this knowledge.	Students will be introduced to Commedia Dell'arte – a traditional genre of theatre. Students will study the stock characters used in Commedia and how the Pantomime genre we love today stemmed from this art form.
Links to prior learning	Students will apply their previous knowledge of sitcoms and stereotypes and how these can be helpful in performance.	Genres of Performance and application of acting skills to show the 5Ws.	Application of acting skills and strategies in performance. Showing a clear character in performance. Creative thinking and evaluation.	What characteristics we see in Pantomimes and how stock characters are used in performance.
Cultural Capital Opportunities	While watching a TV show or Film of your choice, choose two contrasting characters. Evaluate and analyse how the actor is showing their level of status and power. Are they successful? Would you do anything differently?	Watch the news or find a news article about an event. How do you think that Brecht and Stanislavski would aim to show this event through performance? What would the purpose of the performance be?	Challenge yourself to choosing a random object in the room that you are in – you have 5 minutes to plan an idea for a performance using that item as a stimulus. Your idea must be different to the item (e.g if your item is a suitcase your performance idea cannot be someone going on a journey or holiday!)	As you are watching a TV show/film/theatre performance consider whether we can see any of the Commedia Dell'arte stock characters in them. Can you see any similar characteristics?
Assessment Focus	John Godber Script Performance - Shakers	Knowledge Test Written Test		Zanni and Arlecchino's Bank Robbery Practical Performance

Introduction to Devising

Year 9 –Knowledge Organiser

Devising	Stimulus	Creativity	Non-Naturalistic	Intention
The process of creating/making something.	Your starting point – gives you the ideas.	Thinking of creative and interesting ideas for your performance.	Aim for your performance to not be like 'real life'. Use techniques!	What is the aim of your performance? What do you want the audience to think?

Go-To Strategies	
Split Scene	Multiple scenes on stage at the same time. Usually, one scene is frozen while the action is happening in the other.
Breaking the Fourth Wall	Looking at, talking to and involving the audience throughout the performance.
Choral Speaking	Multiple people saying the same thing at the same time.
Multi-Role	Playing more than one character in a performance.
Split-Role	More than one actor playing the same character in a performance.

Performance Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never have your back to the audience • Clear non-verbal communication skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exaggeration • Using the 5 main skills to show a clear character. • Use of placards and multimedia to create atmosphere
Using a Stimulus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask yourself questions! • There's no real right or wrong. • What can you see/hear/smell? • What themes are in the stimulus? How could you use these? • What is jumping out at you?
Self Evaluation
<p>Making judgements about the success of your performance. Using specific examples from your performance to justify your judgement.</p> <p>Identifying areas of strength and improvement.</p>

Introduction to Practitioners

Year 9 – Knowledge Organiser

Theatre Practitioner

Someone who has great influence over how theatre is created and/or performed.



Stanislavski

Born:	1863 in Russia
Died:	1938
Style:	Naturalism Theatre should be like 'real life'.
Created:	The Stanislavski System. His system focuses on actor training, preparation, and rehearsal technique.
Emotion Memory	Actors would use their previous experiences and memories to help create a believable performance.



Brecht

Born:	1898 in Germany
Died:	1956
Style:	Epic Theatre To force the audience to see the world as it really is, not to suspend their disbelief.
Created:	Verfremdungseffekt or the 'Alienation Effect'. Aimed to distance the audience from what they were watching.
Breaking the fourth wall	Engaging directly with the audience throughout the performance – directly addressing them.

Commedia Dell'arte

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Facial Expression	Movement	Gesture	Posture	Voice
Showing how your character feels using your face	The way you move your body to show your character/emotions	A hand or arm movement	The position of your back and shoulders	Changing how you sound to show character/emotion

Commedia Stock Characters

Zanni	A peasant/servant. Low status. No self awareness and an idiot. Walks with knees, arms and back bent.
Arlecchino	A peasant/servant. Low status. A trickster. More clever than Zanni. Stands in a teapot position.
Pantalone	Greedy and old. Obsessed with money. High status but this is lowered by his greed. Shuffles his feet and walks with a hunched back.
The Lovers	An over dramatic couple. Vain and arrogant. High status is lowered by their lovey-doviness. Bouncy and light movements.
Il Capitano	Over confident and arrogant. Pretends to be brave when in actual fact he is a massive coward. Strong posture with chest puffed out or hiding away while being as small as possible.

Performance Skills

- Never have your back to the audience
 - Clear mime and gesture skills
 - Exaggeration
 - Comedic timing
- Using the 5 main skills to show a clear stock character.
- Understanding how characters would interact with each other.

Commedia Dell'arte Knowledge

- Originated in 16th Century Italy
- Means 'Comedy of the Artists'
- Uses stock characters – characters would appear in many different storylines
- Actors would often wear masks

Self Evaluation

Making judgements about the success of your performance. Using specific examples from your performance to justify your judgement.

Identifying areas of strength and improvement.