

melodrama

A performance style with exaggerated characters and exciting events, intended to appeal to the audience's emotions.

Year 8 DRAMA

Scripted Melodrama

January - March/April

stock characters

Stereotypical characters that appear in most melodramas. They include: hero, villain, damsel, faithful servant and elderly parent.

Performance Skills

Characterisation: Using a range of performance skills to create a character that is different to yourself.



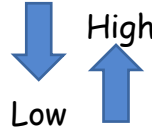
Posture: The way that you sit or stand. The alignment of your spine.



Gesture: A movement (usually of the arm/hand) that communicates a specific meaning.



Vocals - Pitch: How high or low your voice is.



Vocals - Pace: The speed that you speak at.



Facial Expression: Using your face to show how a character is feeling.



Pause/Stillness: A moment of silence, where you are not moving in any way



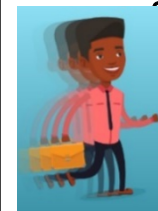
Exaggeration: Making your vocals or physicality more extreme/bigger.



Drama Techniques



An Aside: When a character makes a statement/comment on the action, that the other characters can't hear. Usually said to the audience and it's often a question.



Slow motion: Moving at a least 2 third's slower than normal speed; this allows the audience to see the detail of a movement

Spontaneous Improvisation:



Creating a performance 'on the spot' with no rehearsal and minimal preparation time.

Mime: A silent performance, that uses physicality to communicate intentions to the audience.



Slapstick Comedy:

Humour created by over exaggerated physical actions and reactions. Usually based on clumsiness or mishaps.



Dig Deeper Questions

How could use of stereotypes help to show stock characters?
How do you perform an aside?
Why might slow motion make a chase scene more comedic?

How do you create physical comedy?
Why is timing so important when creating comedy?
What makes a successful, melodramatic performance?