



Drama Knowledge Organiser: Year 8 - Melodrama



Melodrama Knowledge		Performance Skills	
Melodrama	A sensational dramatic performance with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions.	Facial Expression	The feelings expressed on a person's face.
Exaggeration	To make something over the top [OTT] by reacting as if it is larger or greater than it really is, but always reacting with control and focus.	Body Language	The way in which a person communicates using gestures, movements and mannerisms.
Commedia dell'Arte	An Italian form of improvised theatre; popular comedy in Italy from the 16th–18th centuries. Key features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stock characters with exaggerated walks and voices ✓ Use of mask ✓ Masters and Servants ✓ Basic plots based on misunderstanding / love ✓ Physical humour 	Vocals	The way in which the voice is used to present emotion using Tone (Emotion) / Pitch (High or Low) / Pace (Speed) / Volume (Loud or Quiet) / Accent (Region).
Hero	A good character that saves the day.	Space	The area between and around the actors / The theatre space in which the drama takes place.
Villain	An evil character that brings misery to others.	Levels	Used to show how high or low status a character is.
Damsel in Distress	A pure and innocent beauty. Often mistreated by the villain and saved by the hero.	Tension	When the body feels tense / The concept of making the audience want to know what will happen next.
Silent Movies	Films presented from the 1890's-1920's. These films would feature no dialogue, but would be accompanied music and captions to assist in telling the story.	General Terminology	
Pantomime	Family theatre entertainment that is based on a fairy tale or children's story. Key features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Slapstick comedy ✓ Music and dance ✓ Jokes ✓ Elaborate costumes ✓ Audience interaction 	Actor	Someone who pretends to be someone else while performing in a film, play, television or radio programme.
Comedy	A form of entertainment to prompt laughter from the audience. Important forms of modern comedy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farce / Slapstick / Sit-coms 	Audience	The spectators or listeners at a public event such as a film, play, concert, television or radio programme.
Choreographed Movement	The planning and performance of complex movements and steps made by dancers/actors.	Character	A person represented in a film, play or story.
Slow Motion	Movement or action performed to appear slower than reality.	Dialogue	Speech / Conversation between two or more people.
		Technical Terminology	
		Prop	Objects used on stage or screen by actors during a performance or production.
		Costume	A set of clothes worn by an actor in a particular role.
		Set	Scenery used to identify the location of a scene / play.
		Lighting	The arrangement of theatre lights to achieve specific effects.
		Sound	The sound used to create atmosphere, emphasise what is happening on stage, set the scene, and indicate time or location.