

Scheme of Learning: Physical Comedy

Topic Sequence:

Year 7: Spring 1 Commedia dell' Arte

Year 7: Spring 2 Silent Movies

Topic Overview:

During this topic students will continue to explore, develop and refine their drama skills through the genres of Commedia dell' Arte and Silent Movies. Students will gain an understanding of the key features of each theatre style and their application of performance skills focusing on physical comedy.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to build knowledge and understanding of key skills and physical comedy, which students will apply through their exploration of Commedia dell' Arte and Silent Movies.

- **Movement:** dynamics, action/reaction
- **Devising:** spontaneous, role play, prepared/devised, offering, yielding, blocking
- **Staging:** shape and form, purpose, advantages and disadvantages of theatre in the round, street theatre, differences in staging options and decisions between filmed drama and live drama
- **Genre & Style:** Commedia dell' Arte: stock characters, masks, lazzi, slapstick violence. Silent Movies: intertitles, exaggeration, breaking the fourth wall. Evaluate performance clips from silent movies of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton
- **Interrelationships:** linking stock characters and audience interaction within Commedia and the genres in Autumn topic and spotting the differences between the two physical comedy genres in this terms topics.

Interleaved Revision: physical warmups, body language and proxemics, still images, physical tension, vocal warmups, vocal dynamics and projection, vocal tone, stock characters, rehearsal skills, basic performance skills, basic analytical skills

All topics within drama are sequenced in a spiral curriculum where key knowledge, skills and concepts are taught, revisited and developed throughout each topic to refine and secure students' knowledge, skills and application of drama across all Key Stages.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Introduction to Commedia dell' Arte
2	Slapstick, Lazzi Moves, Cherry Eating Lazzi Scene
3	Theatre in the Round
4	Introduction to Silent Movies
5	Silent Movie Scenes – use of slapstick, slow motion & still images
6	'The Poor Wretch' – plot & scene breakdown
7	Freeze frames & Intertitles
8	The rehearsal Process
9	Silent Movies Performance
10	Reviewing & Evaluation own Performance/End of Topic Test

Home Learning Tasks:

1. Arlecchino Mask Design
2. Topic Revision

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	1. Commedia dell' Arte 2. Silent Movies	Any other Resources:	N/A
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	1. Written Evaluation 2. End of Topic Test
Application of Knowledge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-Point performance assessment• Final performance assessment

Skills and Concepts Learning Objectives :

- To develop further techniques for communicating meaning through body language
- To develop spontaneous and prepared improvisation skills
- To understand the basic generic conventions of Commedia dell' Arte and Silent Movies
- To be able to make links and identify differences between Commedia dell' Arte, Melodrama, Pantomime and Silent Movies genres