

# The Big Idea: CREATING A CHARACTER

## Master and Servant

### Key Knowledge:

Students will learn the conventions of Commedia Dell Arte and develop their characterisation by using their voice and physicality to play a range of contrasting characters. An actor uses many different methods to get into role including method acting where they will fully immerse themselves into the role to enable them to really believe that they are the character. In year 7 students will explore the conventions of 'Commedia Dell Arte' and apply them to improvised learning tasks and devised pieces of theatre.

Being able to create and play someone other than yourself is what acting is all about. Being able to change your voice and physicality to suit the role will enable you to play many different people. In year 7 you will get to experiment with your voice and movement to create different people in lots of different situations. Being able to 'put yourself in someone else shoes' will also help to develop empathy and consideration for others.

### Key Language:

**Stock Character** - A stereotypical person whom audiences readily recognize from frequent appearances in a particular literary tradition.

**Slapstick comedy** – A type of physical comedy characterized by broad humour.

**Audience Participation-** An active response by an audience to a live show or broadcast.

**Hot seating:** A technique used to find out more about a character

**Sustain:** The ability to stay in role for a period of time.

**Improvisation:** To make up the action as it goes along.

**Characterisation:** What an actor does to get into role.

**Teacher in role** – when the teacher becomes a character to teach the lesson.

### Key Skills and drama techniques

- Still Image
- Hot seating
- Improvisation
- Mime
- Narration
- Role on the wall
- Whole group drama
- Teacher in role
- TV interview techniques
- Staying in role

