

Big Idea: Performance Skills

Physical Theatre/ A different State of Mind

Key Knowledge

A form of theatre which emphasizes the use of **physical movement, as in dance and mime, for expression**. Physical theatre is a genre of theatrical performance that encompasses **storytelling** primarily through physical movement.

The **genre** focuses on looking at the dramatic potential that can be unlocked from movement. Performances are often described as existing at a crossroads where dance, sound and drama meet, explore complex aspects of human relationships and social or cultural issues.

Modern physical theatre. A modern physical theatre has grown from a variety of origins. **Decroux's** aim was to create a theatre based on the physicality of the actor, allowing the creation of a more **metaphorical theatre**. This tradition has grown, and corporeal mime is now taught in many major theatrical schools.

Physical Theatre. Students will have the opportunity to explore the use of the 'physical body' throughout drama, from concepts such as status and body language, to how different practitioners such as Brecht and Berkoff have developed forms of physical theatre in their work. The hallmarks of **Physical Theatre** is that it does not start with a script, it starts with an idea/concept/topic and it is a collaborative creation. In year 9 there will be opportunities for actors to respond to different briefs and consider how the target audience will effect the style and content of the piece. This is developing their key skills that they will need for the externally access component 3 unit for the year 11 teach award in performing arts.

Key Language

Slow Motion- The action of showing film or playing back video more slowly than it was made or recorded, so that the action appears much slower than in real life.

Still Image: A single frame forming a motionless image.

Physical Theatre: A form of theatre which emphasizes the use of physical movement, as in dance and mime, for expression.

Storytelling - The activity of telling or writing stories.

Balance and Support – This is a group exercise in which a person deliberately allows themselves to fall, relying on the other members of the group to catch the person.

Chair Duets- Is a simple accessible devising task that allows for endless creativity. All you need is a couple of chairs, or a bench, a few simple rules, and your imagination!

Platform theatre- This is where all actors in a performance use their bodies to create physical objects all at the same time during the performance.

Physical Movement - Where the actors move on the stage, what this communicates to the audience and the effect this has upon the drama. the physical methods actors use to help with characterisation

Key Skills and Techniques

- Body language
- Communication
- Concentration
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Posture
- Spatial Awareness
- Gesture
- Control
- Timing
- Slow motion
- Expression/ facial & Physical
- Movement
- Dance
- Choral
- Listening
- Stillness

